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Kuwait and Iraq have set no conditions: Saddam Border issue 'will be solved amicably'

LONDON, March 8. (KUNA): Kuwait and Iraq are trying to solve the border issue in a spirit of brotherhood and keeping the interests of both countries in mind, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has said.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Saddam said the border issue was an inherited one and was not created by either leadership in the two countries. "None of the two countries has set any conditions," he added.

Commenting on the recent visit to Iraq by HH the Crown Prince and Premier of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah, Saddam said Kuwait is a brotherly Arab country which supported

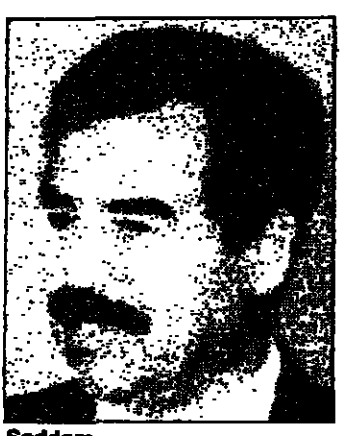
Iraq during the Gulf war. "It is very natural to work together to solve our problems," he said.

Stability

Saddam ruled out the possibility of establishing normal relations with Iran before a peace agreement was signed and a state of stability reached between the two countries.

Saddam said Iraq's relations with Iran were not based on the type of the Iranian regime but rather on what sort of conduct Tehran's authorities might pursue.

"As long as the Iranians were insisting on their hostile attitudes towards the Arabs and Iraq, then it would be quite natural to see no



Saddam

possibility of establishing normal relations," Saddam stressed.

The Iraqi President said that Iran's allegations that Iraq was occupying Iranian territories was "a slogan aimed at covering Tehran's ill-fated policies towards the issue of war or peace."

Rumours

He ridiculed reports on an attempted coup in Iraq published by some media recently, and described them as "fabricated and funny." He asserted that there was no topic that could create a crisis between the Army and the people in Iraq.

Saddam said the rumours of the alleged coup attempt were "fabricated by foreign circles, led by the Zionist movement, who could not tolerate seeing the victory scored by Arabs" in the Gulf war.

China helping Iran build missile plant

MANAMA, March 8. (AP): Iran, with help from China, is building a plant to produce surface-to-surface missiles with a range of more than 500 miles (805 kilometres), and is continuing to develop its chemical warfare capability, Western diplomatic sources said today.

The sources, speaking on condition they not be named, said the factory is in northeastern Iran. They gave no precise location and did not indicate what type of weapon would be built there.

"It's a missile plant and the Chinese are lending support to build it. That much is known," one source said.

Targets

The diplomatic sources said construction of the plant has gone ahead since a UN-mediated ceasefire halted the eight-year Iran-Iraq war on Aug. 20. The weapons it produces presumably would be used against land targets, such as military and population centres, in future hostilities.

Although both countries deny any arms deals, US and other Western officials say China has been a principal supplier of weapons for Ayatollah Khomeini's regime.

The sales, estimated by these experts at more than a billion

dollars, have included two types of jet aircraft and the HY-2 Silkworm and C-801 anti-ship missiles, which have a range of less than 100 miles (161 kms).

China's Deputy Prime Minister, Tian Jiyun ended a five-day trip to Iran yesterday, according to Tehran television. It said the visit concentrated on trade and industrial ties but made no mention of weapons.

Iran said a year ago that it was building its own version of a "foreign missile" for use against Iraq.

Simple

It did not identify the weapon, but Western experts said at the time it would be relatively simple for the Iranians to have copied Soviet-designed "Scud-B" rockets acquired from Syria or Libya.

China's arsenal does not include a surface-to-surface missile with a 500- to 600-mile (805-966-km) range, according to the authoritative reference, Jane's Weapons Systems.

However, the Soviet Union has produced a series of mobile, land-based missiles including the SS-12 and its successor, the SS-22, each with a range of around 540 miles (870 kms). The Soviets also are replacing the Scud-B with the SS-23, a 300-mile (483-km) range missile.

Mine detonated

KUWAIT, March 8. (KUNA): A Defence Ministry source said that a mine which was found floating today in the Kuwaiti regional waters was safely detonated.

Occupation will be resisted: Arafat

MANAMA, March 8. (Agencies): PLO chief Yasser Arafat, challenged by US President Bush to brand as terrorism recent Palestinian attacks on Israel, said he condemned all forms of terrorism but insisted his people are "obliged" to resist the Israeli occupation.

Arafat yesterday accused Israel of repeatedly bombarding southern Lebanon to provoke Palestinian military reaction and then label it as terrorism.

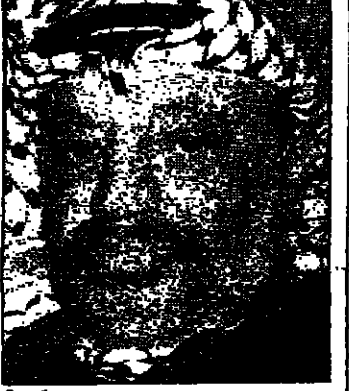
Earlier yesterday at a White House news conference, Bush was asked that in light of Arafat's recent renunciation of terrorism, should the PLO chief condemn Palestinian guerrilla attempts to infiltrate Israel, a denunciation of the Israeli government has sought.

Condemn

"I'd like to see (Arafat) forthrightly condemn any terrorism that might be perpetrated by the Palestinians," Bush said. "I'd like to see him speak out. It would do wonders. If he condones, it doesn't help the dialogue."

US Secretary of State James Baker has concluded that attacks by Palestinian guerrillas against Israelis in southern Lebanon were not acts of terrorism requiring a break-off of US talks with the PLO.

A senior State Department official, aboard Baker's plane on the way home from Vienna, said



Arafat

yesterday concerning what should be labelled terrorism. "We make a mistake if we define that too closely."

But, Baker subsequently warned the PLO the attacks could hurt the talks and US efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arafat told reporters after meetings with Bahraini leaders, "I confirm once more the policy adopted by the Palestine National Council that we are against all forms of terrorism, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or by the state."

Position

"But I want to make it clear once more — the same way I clarified my position when I addressed the United Nations in Geneva — there is a big difference between what we condemn as terrorism and resistance to occupation, for this is a human right enshrined in the charter of the United Nations."

Arafat said as long as Palestinians face occupation by force in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, they are obliged to resist the occupation "with all force."

Arafat arrived in Pakistan today and laid the cornerstone of the Palestine embassy in Islamabad.

Tohra still held in custody

NEW DELHI, March 8. (Agencies): Sikh extremists shot dead a senior Hindu politician in Punjab today just two days after Sikh detainees were freed in a government bid to ease a violent separatist campaign in the north Indian state.

Police in the Punjab capital Chandigarh said state Janata Party vice-president Sadhu Rama was ambushed near the industrial town of Phagwara.

Earlier this week Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi freed 103 of the 185 Sikhs from Jodhpur prison where they had been held since 1984 when the Indian Army assaulted the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, to flush out armed separatists.

Eighty-five of the men were rearrested by the police as there are specific pending cases against them.

Among the men who were taken back into custody were Gurcharan Singh Tohra, head of the Sikh Temple Management Committee, which controls most Sikh shrines and temple funds and is considered the most powerful Sikh organisation.

Tohra was among the seven prisoners still being held in Jodhpur.



Smoke and dust rise as Israeli troops blow up an Arab house in Nablus. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli troops break up march by Arab women

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 8. (Reuters): Baton-wielding Israeli forces today broke up a march by hundreds of Palestinian women demanding the release of their jailed sisters on International Women's Day, witnesses said.

Border policemen charged the Gaza City procession in jeeps, beat participants with their clubs and entered homes to arrest women who fled for safety, the witnesses said. No one was seriously hurt.

Arab hospitals and Palestinians said troops shot at least 11 stone-throwing protesters in the occupied West Bank and Gaza where residents began a 48-hour strike on the start of the 16th month of an Arab uprising against Israeli rule.

Wounded

At least 398 Arabs and 16 Jews have died in the revolt that erupted on Dec. 9, 1987 in the territories captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Seven Palestinians were wounded in Gaza on the second consecutive day of widespread clashes. An Army spokesman said he was checking all the reports.

Throughout the West Bank, Arab women held sit-in protests

to mark the Women's Day. The latest leaflet by underground leaders of the revolt saluted Palestinian women, who have raised their social status because of their central role in the revolt.

Police clamped a curfew on the Arab East Jerusalem area of Isawiya and said they arrested dozens of wanted residents. It was the fourth time in the 15 months of the uprising that security forces imposed a curfew in East Jerusalem.

Palestinians said shops stayed shut and public transport came to a halt in the West Bank and Gaza to honour the strike called by the revolt's clandestine leaders.

Israeli leaders said they would thwart efforts by Jewish militants to build unauthorised settlements in the occupied areas after troops evicted a group of ultra-nationalists who set up a makeshift settlement overnight.

"We will not allow any settlement to be settled in the territories but in accordance with the government's decision," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters.

Leaders of the 70,000 settlers said they would go ahead with plans to inaugurate another settlement next week.

Demonstrators ransack Carbide office in Delhi

NEW DELHI, March 8. (AP): Demonstrators ransacked the office of Union Carbide Corp. today as the Supreme Court heard arguments challenging the settlement for the victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

About 10 to 15 demonstrators stormed into the reception area of Union Carbide's office in central New Delhi, said company spokesman Subramaniam Kumaraswamy. They broke windows, smashed furniture and scribbled slogans on the walls, Kumaraswamy said.

There were about 10 employees in the office at the time, but no one was injured in the melee, which lasted about 20 minutes, he said.

He added the company had asked police for protection against possible future attacks.

Checked

Another 140 demonstrators formed a human chain around the building, shouting "Killer Carbide quit India" and "We will not allow UC to get away with murder."

They demanded the scrapping of the \$470-million settlement as compensation for the victims of

the Bhopal disaster. More than 3,400 people died and 20,000 others were injured.

Police and paramilitary troops checked those entering the Supreme Court and the main gates were locked as hundreds of victims brought to New Delhi from the central Indian city of Bhopal demonstrated outside.

They sat cross-legged in the court parking lot. Many women, some dressed in colourful saris and others wearing black capes, cradled infants in their arms. Some wore yellow paper badges proclaiming, "I am a gas victim."

The Supreme Court on Feb 14 ordered Union Carbide to pay \$470 million as the "full and final" settlement of all claims stemming from the gas leak.

Union Carbide deposited the entire amount with the court on Feb 24. But an attorney for the US-based multinational said today that "settlement was held in abeyance" while the judges heard arguments to admit petitions challenging the order.

Chief Justice Raghunandan S. Pathak last week appointed five judges to decide the merits of a petition filed by Charanlal Sahu challenging the government's right to sue Union Carbide on behalf of all the gas leak victims.

Sahu, 51 and a Supreme Court lawyer, was in Bhopal at the time of the accident and says he still suffers problems with his lungs and eyes.

Iran frees Kuwaiti after 14 days in captivity

By Sami Al Hamad

IRANIAN authorities have released a Kuwaiti citizen after keeping him in custody for 14 days, it was learned today. The Kuwaiti, who has not been identified, was arrested by the Iranians in Gulf waters while he was at sea with his two Indian servants.

The man was not harmed or maltreated by his captors, informed sources say, but he was questioned by Iranian authorities who also confiscated his luxury boat valued at KD14,000.

Arrest

The two Indians were released only a few days after the arrest and sent back to Kuwait with a message for their employer's family, the sources said, adding that the man himself was released when the Iranian authorities forced a Kuwaiti fisherman to carry him in his boat.

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Kuwait bans The Satanic Verses

KUWAIT, March 8. (Reuters): Kuwait today became the latest country to ban "The Satanic Verses," the Salman Rushdie novel which many Muslims have denounced as blasphemy.

A senior official said that Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad had issued a decree banning all Rushdie's work.

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini has called on Muslims to kill Rushdie, who was born into a Muslim Indian family but now lives in Britain. (See also page 2).

UN chief condemns violence against women

UNITED NATIONS, March 8. (Reuters): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called today for redoubled efforts for women's rights and said violence against them is a major concern.

Many states, both developed and developing, have reported sharp increases in rape, wife-beating and criminal sexual abuses of women and girls.

In a message marking International Women's Day, Perez de Cuellar said: "Equal treatment for women workers in wages and working conditions often remains nothing more than a hope."

In his message, issued during his absence on a three-week Asian tour, the secretary-general said: "Let us today redouble our efforts to ensure that over half of the world's population, its women, will have the opportunity to play their multiple roles in

Palestinian state backed

TEL AVIV, March 8. (Reuters): Israel's top strategic "think-tank" today tentatively endorsed the setting up of a Palestinian state but said Israelis and Palestinians should first devote up to 15 years to confidence building.

Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies said its six-month study was prompted by the Palestinian uprising and deliberately issued ahead of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's planned trip to

Washington next month.

The study envisages a halt to new Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where there would be interim self-rule by Palestinian residents who would end their 15-month-old revolt against Israeli rule.

Israel would negotiate with the PLO and the United States would pledge in advance its support of the PLO quest for an independent state.

US grants visas to PLO members

WASHINGTON, March 8. (Reuters): The United States has decided to grant visas to three members of the PLO, enabling them to attend a New York conference on Middle East peace, the State Department said today.

WEATHER

CLOUDY weather will continue with moderate south-easterly wind, freshening at times and causing dust and a chance for rain.

State of sea: rough
High water: 1.00 pm
Low water: 7.00 am 7.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.05 am
Sunset: 5.53 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 30°C 86°F
Ahmad: 23°C 72°F
Fahaka: 22°C 72°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 20°C 68°F
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Fahaka: 18°C 64°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 30°C 86°F
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F
Fahaka: 23°C 73°F
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Ahmad: 14 per cent
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Comfort of home is a cruel illusion for many

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In a message marking International Women's Day, Perez de Cuellar said: "Equal treatment for women workers in wages and working conditions often remains nothing more than a hope."

In his message, issued during his absence on a three-week Asian tour, the secretary-general said: "Let us today redouble our efforts to ensure that over half of the world's population, its women, will have the opportunity to play their multiple roles in

society on a more equal basis."

He went on: "Violence against women is still a major concern in many countries."

According to an analysis of violence against women worldwide, the comfort of home is a cruel illusion for millions of women in countries around the globe.

In the course of today, thousands of women world-wide will have been beaten in their homes by their partners, and thousands more will have been raped, assaulted and sexually harassed, according to figures from the report, written by Lori Heise, a senior researcher with the Worldwatch Institute.

"If a person is murdered because of his or her politics, the world justifiably responds with outrage. But if a person is beaten or allowed to die because she is female, the world dismisses it as

"cultural tradition." "The report by the Washington-based institute said.

Africa and the Indian subcontinent are identified as particular problem areas by the report. But no society or socio-economic group has been spared the problem, Heise says.

International Women's Day often features speechmaking focussed on the strides women have made toward equality. But, as Heise sees it, just being a woman, particularly in a Third World country, can pose extraordinary risks.

In the United States, says Surgeon-General C. Everett Koop, as many as 15 million women have been beaten, raped or suffered other forms of physical and sexual assault, and the number rises by one million a year.

As Hedy Nuriel, first vice-chairman of the National Coal-

ition of Domestic Violence, put it: "For many of us, it's safer to be out on the streets than to be in our own homes."

Heise says that, internationally, women tend to be targets because of their sex and the violence occurs "without social remorse or protest."

Violence

"Societies tacitly condone this violence through their silence or, worse yet, legitimise it through laws, customs, and court opinions that blatantly discriminate against women," she says.

The problem, she adds, is worthy of international attention but is seldom raised at that level. It was not until 1980 that the international women's community recognised wife abuse as a priority.

In India, she writes, countless women have died as a byproduct of the system in which a bride's

parents provide gifts to the groom as part of a marriage settlement.

Murder, suicide or severe abuse is sometimes the price young brides pay if promised money or goods do not materialise, she says.

For a woman in Bangladesh, said Ishrat Shamim of the University of Dhaka, the choice is often between a violent home and none at all.

In that country, "separated, deserted or divorced women are socially unacceptable," she observes, "and remarriage is almost impossible."

A side effect of the preference for male offspring in Bangladesh can be shown in comparative statistics on health care. Heise writes that in Matlab, Bangladesh, boys outnumber girls among hospitalised children by 50 to one.

THERE has been much talk about the role of the Israeli Boycott Office, the headquarters of which are based in Damascus.

It is alleged that the office bans some companies and permits others to operate in return for personal gain. It is further alleged that the office is not an unbiased participant in the "behind-the-scenes" struggle between foreign companies which compete with each other for markets in the Arab world.

Consequently, it is claimed the actions of the Israeli Boycott Office have enabled some companies to succeed in banning their competitors unjustifiably from Arab markets.

Fortunately, two or three years later, these very companies which were banned were reinstated to trade with the Arab world on discovering that they were unjustifiably banned and were the victims of a conspiracy.

Zahed Matar

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Fahaka: 73 per cent

Meningitis kills 696 in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, March 8, (AP): A meningitis epidemic has killed 696 people in Ethiopia's three central and southern regions, a Health Ministry official said today.

Tadelle Tedla, head of the ministry's epidemiology department, said 9,005 cases, 203 of them in the capital, Addis Ababa, had been diagnosed by the end of last month and that three million people had been vaccinated.

"We have the health infrastructure and experience in combating the disease, but it will take some time to contain it effectively," Tadelle said.

He said the government had earmarked one million birr (\$500,000) for a mass vaccination programme and had received 4.5 million vaccination doses from United Nations agencies and non-government organisations.

"It is too early for any decline," Tadelle said. "With the unfavourable high temperatures now prevailing in the central and southern regions, we do not expect any appreciable decline."

Tadelle acknowledged that his statistics did not include figures from "remote and inaccessible" areas, leaving open the possibility of even higher rates of death and incidence of the disease.

Meningitis is caused by a virus and leads to inflammation of the membrane surrounding the brain and the spinal cord.

Papandreou to sue American magazine

ATHENS, March 8, (AP): The Greek government said today that Premier Andreas Papandreou would sue an American news magazine for defamation in connection with an interview it carried with a fugitive Greek banker who accused him of involvement in the biggest bank scandal in the country's history.

The announcement made over state-run radio and television did not explain how and when Papandreou would file his suit against Time magazine of New York.

The Time report circulated in the United States and in Europe this week, was front page in every major Greek national daily.

Papandreou described the interview with banker-publisher George Koskotas as "despicable," while the entire political opposition reiterated their calls for his government's resignation.

Replacement

The Greek Communist Party demanded a general catharsis and that as a start the 70-year-old Papandreou should be replaced as head of the Socialist government and general elections held as soon as possible. It called for mass protest rallies to be held throughout the country on March 15 so that the scandals currently rocking the government can be cleared up.

The ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement's (Pasek) second four-year term in office ends in June.

Koskotas, former chairman of the Bank of Crete, has been accused of siphoning off \$200-

million of the bank's funds. He fled Greece last November and ended up in the United States where he is awaiting the outcome of a Greek petition for his extradition in a Salem, Massachusetts jail.

The magazine interview quoted the 34-year-old Koskotas as saying that Papandreou and several leading members of his government allegedly authorised a plan to embezzle the bank of millions of dollars and that he made regular payments for political favours.

Resign

The government also came under fire from members within the ruling party with former ministers Antonis Tritsis and Roula Kakiamanaki leading the attack saying that all those who were implicated in scandals should resign, "no matter how high they were."

Government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos made it clear that Papandreou and his government had no intention of stepping down.

His opponents who never have been and never will be able to defeat him in elections, dream of his resignation," said Kostopoulos.

He repeated charges that the Koskotas scandal was part of a series of "orchestrated attacks against Papandreou by local and foreign centres of destabilisation" which were aimed at subverting what he described as the popular progressive movement in Greece.

Church accuses IRA of sectarianism after triple slaying

DUBLIN, March 8, (Reuters): The IRA, committed to cutting down civilian casualties, was accused of blatant sectarianism by church and political leaders after killing three Protestants in front of terrified schoolchildren.

The gunmen laughed, cheered and fired volleys into the air after the triple slaying at a garage in the sleepy county Tyrone village of Coagh yesterday, witnesses and police said.

Church and political leaders on both sides of the sectarian divide in Northern Ireland were swift to condemn the Irish Republican Army which had pledged in 1989 to "refine its activities" after killing 23 civilians in botched attacks.

Cardinal Tomas O Fiach, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, said: "The entire community, Protestant and Catholic, will be horrified by these callous murders."

The Reverend William McCrea, the local British Member of Parliament representing the province's Protestant majority, knew all three victims and wept as he told reporters: "The gunmen laughed and cheered because they had done a successful job."

Britain's Northern Ireland Minister, Tom King, called the triple slaying "another revolting sectarian killing."

Revenge

The IRA said it shot the men, two of them pensioners, because the garage was a stronghold for Protestant paramilitary extremists who killed a Sinn Féin councillor last month.

The killing sparked fears that paramilitary extremists could launch into another bloody round of "tit-for-tat killings."

It could also cause problems for Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, who is eager to widen his support in the run-up to Northern Ireland local elections in May and European elections in June.

Adams constantly stresses the need for IRA guerrillas to "be careful out there" and restrict their campaign to what they consider legitimate targets — police and soldiers.

The county Tyrone killings have inevitably thrown doubt on the ability of IRA leaders to deliver on their promise of a more "refined" military strategy.

Fifteen IRA gunmen have been killed in the past year, 17 top guerrillas arrested and several arms caches unearthed on either side of the border. Bungled bombings led to one border "active service unit" being disbanded.

Hashish

He said that police who rounded up one gang seized more than a half-ton of hashish buried in the Maan desert, 108 miles (180 kilometres) south of Amman, the capital.

Another swoop was carried out 24 miles (40 kms) south of Amman, Majali said.

In the third raid on Jordan's northern border with Syria, police seized 11-2 tons of hashish in three trucks driven from Lebanon, Majali said.

He claimed that Jordan was a "drug-free society," but was a major transit point for drugs shipped from Lebanon bound for Turkey and the Gulf region.

20 detained in Jordan drugs busts

AMMAN, March 8, (AP): Police have arrested 20 drug smugglers and seized hashish worth \$5 million at street prices this year, public security director Gen. Abdul Hadi Majali said today.

"These were the most dangerous drug-trafficking operations in the history of the kingdom and if they had succeeded, they would have had caused drastic damage," he told a news conference.

He said the security operations, in which 21-2 tons of hashish and 300,000 pills were seized, broke up three gangs with 45 members.

Majali noted that several escaped the police raids.

He said all the men arrested will be "tried and prosecuted in Jordan according to Jordanian law." The penalties for drug trafficking include life imprisonment with hard labour to the death sentence.

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Smoking ban

WASHINGTON, March 8, (AP): Two senators introduced legislation yesterday to permanently ban cigarette smoking on all domestic flights, a bill that immediately received the endorsement of Surgeon-General Everett Koop.

Raisa praises women for improving peace prospects

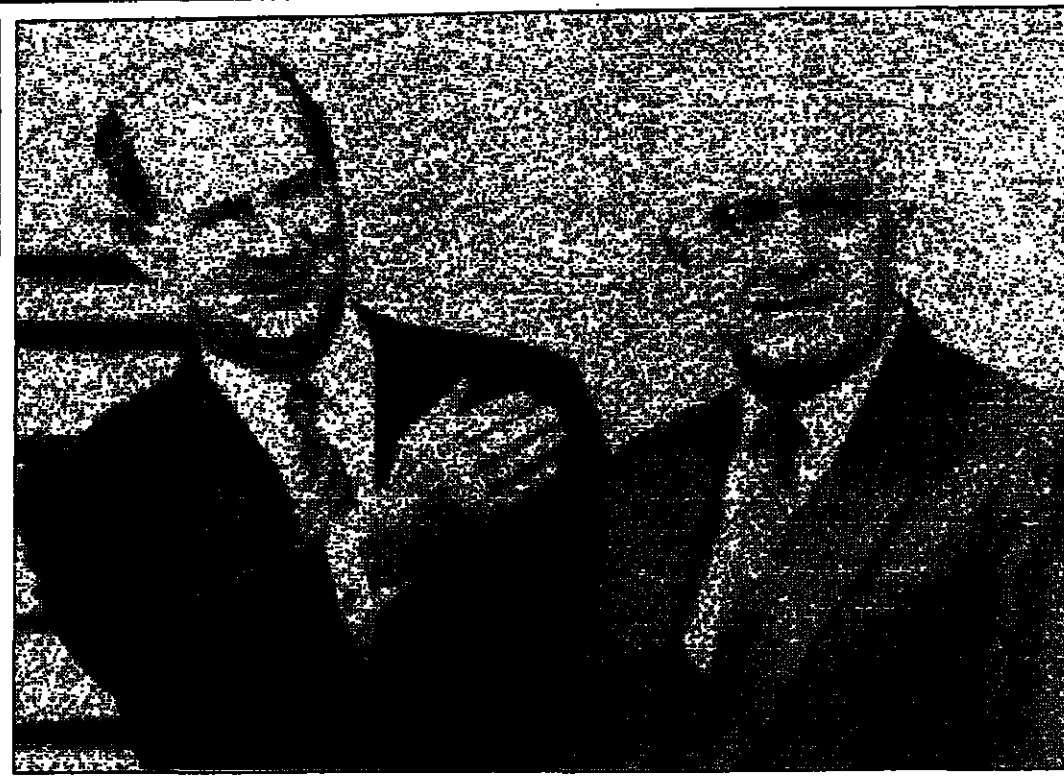
MOSCOW, March 8, (AP): In a rare Soviet report on the views of Raisa Gorbachev, the official news agency Tass said yesterday that the first lady praised women around the world for improving the prospects for peace.

"If people currently are more confident of a peaceful future, we know that much of the credit goes to women actively working on all continents for friendship, co-operation and profound mutual understanding," said Raisa the 57-year-old wife of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Raisa spoke at a reception in honour of International Women's Day, a Soviet holiday that will be celebrated today. In attendance were the wives of other members of the ruling Politburo, the wives of foreign diplomats and Soviet women leaders from various fields.

Raisa's champagne toast at Monday's reception gave her a rare opportunity to share her opinions with fellow Soviets.

"The Soviet people are putting into practice plans of revolutionary restructuring. We are connecting to it the destiny of our country, of our nation," she said



Baker (left) and Shevardnadze had their first bilateral meeting in Vienna. (Reuters wirephoto)

US, France react coolly to Warsaw Pact arms proposal

VIENNA, March 8, (AP): The United States and France have reacted coolly to a Warsaw Pact suggestion that Eastern bloc and Western nations consider banning short-range nuclear weapons from Europe at arms talks opening tomorrow.

US Secretary of State James Baker III told reporters yesterday that he objected to the Soviet attempt to include nuclear missiles in the new arms negotiations.

Baker commented after meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who made the Warsaw Pact proposal on Monday at a meeting of 35 foreign ministers gathered in Vienna to launch the new talks. Shevardnadze also proposed deep cuts in troops and other kinds of weaponry.

Reductions

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation outlined its own proposals on Monday, focusing on drastic numerical reductions in Soviet tanks and artillery. Baker said he and Shevardnadze agreed Baker should visit Moscow in May, to discuss prospects for a superpower summit conference and resumption of talks to reduce long-range nuclear missiles.

The Warsaw Pact proposal on short-range nuclear weapons has evoked different responses from several NATO foreign ministers, indicating that the alliance could face a long battle over modernising those weapons in West Germany.

On short-range nuclear weapons, which have a 300-mile (480-kilometre) range, Shevardnadze proposed withdrawing them from large parts of West Germany, East Germany and Czechoslovakia before starting discussions on their complete elimination.

Western officials said those proposals seemed aimed at West Germany, where there is increasing reluctance to go along with American demands for immediate modernisation of ageing US battlefield nuclear rockets.

In taking issue with Shevardnadze's proposals for talks to eliminate battlefield nuclear missiles, Baker noted that these were specifically excluded from the mandate for the new talks. The mandate covers European territory from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains in the Soviet Union.

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Roland Dumas termed nuclear weapons an "irreplaceable" deterrent yesterday, adding: "The maintenance of credible defences, the modernisation of this or that weapon is necessary."

The Netherlands today reminded negotiators at new talks that the security of the continent cannot be increased without respect for human rights.

East bloc nations such as Czechoslovakia have come under heavy fire in the West in recent weeks for alleged failure to respect human rights agreements reached in January at the 35-nation Helsinki review conference.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, who has used a new mechanism to launch formal complaints with Czechoslovakia over its recent jailing of dissidents, did not name any East bloc nations in a speech to a ministerial meeting in the Hofburg palace.

But he noted the January commitments had not been respected everywhere and stressed the 1975 Helsinki final act, signed by the 35 nations present, "recognises that respect for human rights is an essential element for peace, justice and well-being."

Without fundamental rights and freedoms for everyone in Europe, he said, "mistrust will continue to exist and... we shall find it difficult to overcome the barriers that have separated East and West for so long now."

UK to expel Iranians on security grounds

LONDON, March 8, (AP): Britain is expelling an unspecified number of Iranians "on security grounds" because of Iran's death sentence against novelist Salman Rushdie, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said today.

The Foreign Office also warned some 150 Britons residents in Lebanon to leave. It said they are under "increased threat" following Iran's severing of diplomatic relations with Britain yesterday over Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses*.

Howe, speaking in the House of Commons, did not rule out a cut off in trade relations with Iran.

He also announced that Britain has ordered the closure of the Iranian consulate in Hong Kong, a British colony, and given the staff two weeks to leave.

Refused

Howe noted that Ayatollah Khomeini has refused to withdraw his call made Feb 14 to Muslims to kill Indian-born Rushdie, a naturalised Briton, whose novel many Muslims regard as blasphemous.

"We have therefore decided on security grounds a number of Iranians must be required to leave this country," said Howe. "We are keeping the activities of other Iranians under very close review."

He said the expulsion orders will be issued shortly.

To repeated calls by legislators to ban trade with Iran, Howe replied: "We stand ready to take whatever action may be necessary in the light of events."

Iran, accusing Britain of "treachery," severed relations yesterday a week after demanding that this country denounce Rushdie and ban his novel.

Britain's 11 European Economic Community partners as well as Canada, Sweden and Norway, have recalled their top diplomats from Tehran in protest at Khomeini's death sentence.

Holds

In Beirut, the Shiite Revolutionary Justice Organisation, which holds two American hostages, declared it has completed plans to target out Ayatollah Khomeini's death sentence on Rushdie, but will attack British police first.

A statement from the group, delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut and accompanied by an instant photo of hostage Edward Tracy, 58, made no specific threat against the American captives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet AIDS cases

MOSCOW, March 8, (AP): The government daily Izvestia says AIDS cases in the Soviet Union are increasing at an alarming rate, with the number of infected or ill people forecast to rise by almost 10 times next year.

It quoted the Health Minister, Yevgeny Chazov, as saying AIDS now poses as great a danger to the Soviet Union as nuclear weapons.

"The alarming situation with AIDS demands rapid and decisive measures," Izvestia said in the latest of a series of reports in the Soviet press about the disease.

Filipino women

MANILA, March 8, (AP): About 2,000 women marched to the Philippine presidential palace today to denounce President Corason Aquino's failure to control conditions that force thousands of Filipino women to work as domestics and prostitutes at home and abroad.

"The poverty and oppression of Filipino women all over the world have only worsened in the three years since Cory Aquino was installed in office," said a statement distributed to pedestrians as the women marched under a blazing sun through downtown streets.

Pelati dies

PARIS, March 8, (Reuters): A close friend of French President Mitterrand, who was charged last month in connection with the Peciney insider trading scandal, died of a heart attack yesterday, hospital officials said.

Officials at the American hospital in Paris said all attempts to revive the 70-year-old retired businessman had failed.

Roger-Patrice Pelati, whose friendship with Mitterrand dated back to World War Two, had been charged with benefiting from insider trading ahead of French aluminium company Peciney's acquisition of Triangle Industries Inc. last year.

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US to accept more refugees from Indo-China

KUALA LUMPUR, March 8, (UPI): The United States pledged today to accept more Indo-Chinese refugees and finance increased efforts to solve the 14-year-old exodus from Southeast Asia.

"I want to reaffirm emphatically the commitment of the United States to continue to actively assist," Jonathan Moore, US co-ordinator for refugee affairs, told delegates from 37 countries charged with devising a plan outlining the obligations of the countries of origin, first asylum nations and resettlement destinations.

The Southeast Asian nations that are saddled with 300,000 refugees have accused the United States and other Western nations of slowing emigration and fear the refugees will remain indefinitely unless renewed efforts are made.

"The United States will continue to resettle newly arrived asylum seekers who qualify as refugees," Moore said, and will help expand Vietnam's orderly departure programme, initiated to provide a safe alternative to the hazards of clandestine departures.

Foreigners ordered to leave Tibet capital

Troops patrol Lhasa

CHENGDU, March 8, (AP): Police seized people from their homes in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa today as troops converged on the city to enforce martial law after three days of anti-Chinese rioting, witnesses said.

Foreigners were given a day to leave the remote southern city.

An Australian traveller told of security forces in Lhasa pulling Tibetans out of their homes: "One or two people were screaming really frantically as they were being taken away into a truck."

"The truck kept coming back," he said. "They would pick up a couple people, drive off with a half dozen militia holding them down, then come back."

The Australian, speaking by telephone, said he saw police leading away another group of 12 to 14 youths, some of whom looked as young as nine.

A US tourist said thousands of soldiers had occupied the old section of the city, where Tibetans protesting Chinese rule began rioting on Sunday, stoning police and building bonfires of goods looted from Chinese-owned stores.

Official reports have put the death toll in the violence at 12, although Tibetans say far more have been killed, shot to death by security forces.

At midnight yesterday, trucks with loudspeakers began announcing that the city was under martial law and that Tibetans should stay indoors.

Chinese authorities announced martial law in Lhasa yesterday and said the entire city would be "cordoned off." Anyone "who defies martial law or instigates others to do so will be severely punished," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

It was the first time China has publicly imposed martial law anywhere since the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution and marked an escalation in the battle against Tibetan protesters, who demand freedom from China and the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Troops were not deployed in three previous outbreaks of violence over the past 18 months that claimed the lives of about 40

Tibetans and police.

One US traveller said that after martial law was declared, "the Tibetans who'd been marching around were still angry. They felt frustrated. Others were scared. I saw grown men bursting into tears."

Doje Cering, head of the Tibet autonomous government, was quoted on national radio today as saying separatists had taken China's restrained stance towards past demonstrations as a sign of weakness.

"Now is the time for a radical solution. If we don't adopt that now, it will seriously influence our social stability."

Travellers said police entered one hotel and another an hour later and announced that all foreigners must leave Lhasa by noon tomorrow. About 80 foreigners were believed to be in the city.

"It's basically a choice between heading for the Nepal border and flying to Chengdu," the provincial capital of Sichuan, one traveller said. "But they won't let us out to go to the bank or prepare."

Woman targets father's name

NEW YORK, March 8, (AP): An 80-year-old woman who came to the United States in 1910 will finally travel to Israel seven months after her passport application was held up because she couldn't remember her father's name.

Yetta Eisdorfer, of Brooklyn, went to her congressmen's office in August to file for the document that would allow her to visit her relatives in Israel, said Charles Schumer, her congressman.

But Eisdorfer, who has never been abroad, could not prove she was a US citizen — her father's first name and where he was naturalised slipped her memory. The information was crucial, since she was granted citizenship through her father's naturalisation.

"Ms. Eisdorfer's case required some dogged detective work," said Schumer, a Democrat who represents the area of Brooklyn in which the woman lives.

Eisdorfer supplied a clue when she recalled her father's first name started with the letter "I." Schumer's staff searched seven months through immigration papers at courts where the elder Eisdorfer might have been sworn in.

Finally, they came across the file of Ignid Eisdorger, whose daughter's name was on his citizenship certificate, issued June 19, 1924.

Parliament business stalled

Two more held in Japan scandal

TOKYO, March 8, (Reuters): Tokyo prosecutors arrested two more people today, including a former vice-minister of labour, in connection with the share scandal which has rocked the Japanese government.

All parliamentary business was stalled due to opposition demands for more information on the scandal which has forced three cabinet ministers out of office and so far led to the arrest of 12 people on suspicion of giving or receiving bribes.

A prosecutor's office spokesman said former vice-minister Takashi Kato had been arrested on suspicion of receiving bribes from Recruit company, the publishing and telecommunications group at the heart of the scandal.

Also arrested on suspicion of giving bribes was former senior Recruit official Masao Tatsumi, the prosecutor's spokesman said.

Local press reports said Kato, who retired from government in 1987, received 3,000 shares in a

then-unlisted Recruit subsidiary while at the ministry, and made 6.9 million yen (\$54,000) by selling them after they were listed.

Recruit distributed shares and contributions to more than 100 public figures, including top politicians and their aides. Prosecutors say the shares offered in many cases were in effect bribes.

Opposition parties, which for months have been calling for the government to resign over the affair, halted parliamentary business today with their demands for full disclosure, parliamentary officials said.

The opposition has refused to discuss the budget because of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's rejection of their demand to have former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone testify in parliament over his alleged involvement in the scandal.

"The opposition is determined to boycott parliament until the LDP agrees to its demands," said Shun Oide, head of the Japan Socialist Party's parliament

policy committee.

Nakasone has denied widespread rumours that he was involved in the purchase by Recruit of a supercomputer originally imported from the United States by the telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) during his administration.

Bribes

Former NTT chairman Hisashi Shinto and two other former NTT employees have been arrested on suspicion of receiving bribes from Recruit in connection with the supercomputer deal.

Recruit, which built its business on magazine filled with employment advertisements, is also alleged by the prosecutor's office to have given bribes to Labour Ministry officials to persuade them not to tighten restrictions on job magazines.

Those arrested so far are six former or present Recruit group employees, two former Labour Ministry officials and four former employees of NTT.

Jalalabad under heavy attack

KABUL, March 8, (Reuters): The east Afghan city Jalalabad is under heavy attack from mujahedeen rebels but its triple lines of defence are still intact, a government official said today.

He confirmed a Soviet report that several Afghan cities were under renewed pressure from rebels trying to overthrow the government of President Najibullah.

"Yes, the attacks are going on with Pakistani help," he said.

Besides the push on Jalalabad, the Soviet report mentioned fighting around Zaranj, Lashkargah and Kandahar, all provincial capitals along the southern border with Pakistan.

The Afghan government official said: "Their main thrust is focused on Jalalabad. We regard the fighting around the other cities as distraction attacks."

The Afghan government

official said the tempo of fighting around Jalalabad had gradually increased over the past week, with missile and artillery fire preceding the ground attack now under way.

Several thousand guerrillas are fighting alongside Pakistani militiamen, he said. Intelligence reports said Pakistani regular Army divisions had been deployed in border areas facing the provinces now under attack, he added.

There was no news on the progress of the battle other than the official's statement that the rebels had made little ground and Jalalabad remained under government control.

Western reporters accompanying the mujahedeen reported late last month the rebels were only five km from the eastern edge of the city. No more recent information has reached the capital.

Sri Lankan professor shot dead in Colombo

COLOMBO, March 8, (AP): Suspected anti-government militants today burst into a research laboratory and shot and killed a former vice-chancellor of Colombo University, police said.

Four men barged into the college house across from the university and fired two revolvers at Professor Stanley Wijesundera, they said.

The 65-year-old professor of bio-chemistry served as vice-chancellor, or the head of the university, for more than 11 years.

Wijesundera retired four months ago and had been working on a research project at the college house, about six kilometres from downtown Colombo, university officials said.

Police, who blamed Sinhalese radicals for the killing, said the professor's murder may have been to protest plans by President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government to re-

open seven universities that were closed because of student unrest during the last two years. Government officials have said the unrest was fuelled by Sinhalese militants.

The only university currently operating is in the northern town of Jaffna.

The government earlier announced that the seven universities would reopen on March 2, but postponed the date without giving any reason.

The students had been protesting the detention of colleagues who had opposed an India-sponsored peace accord aimed at ending an insurgency by Tamil militants on the island's north and east provinces.

Sinhalese radicals also oppose the accord, which was signed between India and Sri Lanka in July 1987. They say it grants too many concessions to the Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of the country's 16 million people.

Two die as cows battle soldiers

DHAKA, March 8, (Reuters): A pair of wild cows wandered from India, where they were sacred, to Bangladesh, where they were not, and killed two villagers before soldiers slaughtered the animals in an hour-long battle.

Six soldiers were injured in the melee, which began after the cows walked into Bangladesh through Khairani border point on Tuesday and pierced two villagers to death with their giant horns.

Alerted by screaming villagers, soldiers tried to scare the beasts off with dozens of rifle shots.

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Amir to patronise graduation ceremony

HH the Amir will patronise on Saturday morning the graduation ceremony of faculties of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for the academic year 1987/1988.

The ceremony is to be held at Sabah Al Salem Theatre of Kuwait University.

The dean of students at the authority Hisham Al Mutawa said HH the Amir will honour 222 graduates of faculties of technological studies, commercial studies basic education and health sciences. Each graduate is invited to bring two of his relatives to attend the party.

The ceremony will include speeches by Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Al Shamlan and the director-general of the authority Dr Abdul Rahman Al Mithailan.

Boat sales to be monitored

SOME commercial companies and establishments sell boats and yachts without being licensed to do so according to a maritime official.

Faisal Al Kandari, the deputy director of Maritime Affairs Department at the Communications Ministry advocated granting the department authority to monitor the activities of sales of these vessels.

The Ministry of Communications co-ordinated with the Ministry of Commerce recently to oblige all companies and factories that import or manufacture boats to indicate the plate and chassis number, the official said.

He added that his department has the authority to inspect boats and yachts to ensure that they are licensed — whether at sea or at beaches, to inspect safety and emergency equipment on big ships, big boats and wooden boats in regional waters and to monitor pollution activities at sea.

Marine surveyors of the department are authorised to investigate pollution accidents. Ships that cause pollution are seized and are released on bail of KD40,000, Kandari said.

Saddam sacks agriculture minister

BAGHDAD, March 8, (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sacked Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Karim Hassan Redha yesterday with an unusually blunt attack on his "drastic performance".

Baghdad television said a presidential decree relieved Redha from his post for "inefficiency and for his drastic failure to run the ministry despite being given several chances to achieve this aim."

Redha was appointed in September 1987 after the amalgamation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform with the Ministry of Irrigation.

Health Minister Sadeq Hameed Aloush was sacked in May last year after the National Assembly passed a vote of no confidence against him because of negligence in several health institutions.

Four of these were reported in the Capital, three in Hawalli, four in Ahmadi and four in Jahra.

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Sheikh Sabah in telephone contact with Hoss, Aoun

KUWAIT, March 8, (KUNA): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today contacted over the telephone Lebanon's Acting Premier Selim Al Hoss and head of the provisional military government there Gen. Michel Aoun.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that he asked both leaders to exert their utmost efforts to ease tensions in that country, expressing deep sorrow and pain for developments in Lebanon over the past few days.

He added that he tried to reach the leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and Minister of Public Works Walid Jumblatt on the telephone but he was not in Lebanon.

Sheikh Sabah announced that

he will try again to telephone Jumblatt in Damascus to discuss latest developments and to ask him to exert efforts to calm the situation.

The deputy premier, who is also heading a six-man Arab League Committee entrusted with settling Lebanon's political crisis, hoped that the Lebanese would agree on realising the great goal aspired for by the Lebanese people and the Arab nation namely to extract Lebanon from its ordeal, restore security and stability and preserve its unity and independence.

Sheikh Sabah expected a few hours delay in the committee's third round of talks that was scheduled for March 17 in Kuwait since it is a Friday.



Abdul Aziz Al Rashed looks at toys after opening the exhibition.

Rashed opens exhibition for children's toys and books

KUWAIT, March 8, (KUNA): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed today inaugurated the 10th Exhibition for Children's Toys and Books organised by the council at the International Fairground in Mishref.

Rashed, in a statement to local reporters, emphasised the importance of such exhibitions and

called for providing the best atmosphere for the upbringing of children.

24 libraries are taking part in this year's exhibition with 8,882 books on display while 11 companies are showing 2,882 different toys in addition to participation of the Science Club and Interior Ministry.

The exhibition, to be open until March 17, includes computers and educational aids.

Sharhan chairs Higher Planning Committee meeting

KUWAIT, March 8, (KUNA): Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan today chaired a meeting for the ministry's Higher Planning Committee in the presence of Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub and assistant undersecretaries.

The committee discussed engagement of responsibilities with other ministries in transport affairs and completing the marine cable project between

Kuwait and Bahrain in addition to other issues.

Abdul Aziz Ahmad Al Ayoub on the other hand toured the country's northern regional waters including Khor Abdullah, Warba Island and Khor Subiya.

Ayoub, accompanied by ministry officials, inspected various Communications Ministry installations in the area.

Tea party for diplomats

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE Fatah Club yesterday held a tea party for diplomats at its premises in Khaldiya, in preparation for their second bazaar of traditional handicrafts and dishes. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ways and means of ensuring the bazaar will be a success.

Preparations

The bazaar is scheduled to be opened on April 1 under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, according to club Chairwoman Sheikhha Sabiha Al Abdullah Al Sabah. Proceeds from the event will go to the club, she said.

Each embassy involved in the bazaar will have on display traditional handicrafts of their country, as well as various

products and dishes. Preparations have been going on for five months.

Nearly twenty embassies will participate in the event, according to one club member, Fatma Al Issa. The first bazaar, which took place in 1984, was very successful, she said.

The club hopes the combined efforts of different countries actively participating in the bazaar will serve as a bridge towards better intercommunication and understanding between various cultures.

Indian envoy meets Osaimi

A PRESS release from the Indian embassy in Kuwait said that Nagendra Nath Jha, ambassador of India met yesterday with Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi, minister of state for foreign affairs. Bilateral relations and means to further strengthen co-operation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting. Problems relating to 1,000 Indian labourers at Al Qurain housing project were also discussed.

Doctors to donate organs

TWENTY doctors of various specialisations and nurses at Addan Hospital officially expressed their wish to donate their vital organs after their death. This action follows the illustrious example of the Minister of Planning, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, who offered all his parts to needy patients.

This noble gesture comes in response to public appeal voiced by the Ministry of Public Health and the Kuwait Transplant Society, urging people to donate their organs after death to save the lives of patients in need of transplants.

US foreign policy expert talks with students on issues

Arabian Gulf on the back burner

By Diane Diaz

STABLE oil prices and the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war have put the Arabian Gulf on the back burner of American foreign policy, according to an American scholar visiting Kuwait.

Professor Daniel Pipes, director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Pennsylvania, said Americans are now giving the Gulf less attention and that President Bush's outlook for the region is unclear. "The trouble with George Bush is that no one really knows anything about him," Pipes said in answer to a question about the new administration's foreign policy agenda in the Gulf.

Viewpoint

"In 20 years of public life, he (Bush) has never had a viewpoint. No one knows what he'll do in the Middle East. I don't even know why he wants to be President, other than he gets to live in the White House."

Pipes, who served as an advisor to Bush during the presidential campaign, described the President as a "middle-of-the-road, mainstream Republican," and said, "beyond that, I can't say anything about him."

The unflattering picture of the new President contrasted sharply with Pipes' characterisation of past-President Ronald Reagan.

In talking about the Iran-Contra scandal, Pipes depicted Reagan as a "sentimental old man who felt responsibility for the hostages."

Discussions

Pipes spent nearly two hours discussing American foreign policy issues with nearly 50 students and adults who gathered in a classroom at Kuwait University's Adeliya campus.

He touched on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from the Arab-Israeli conflict to the Rushdie affair.

When asked if he had read the controversial book *The Satanic Verses*, Pipes said, "I have read part of it, not all of it."

"The important thing is not the book. It simply is profoundly unacceptable in the West that a novelist should be condemned to death because of what he has written," he added.

Issues

The Rushdie discussion clearly hit a nerve in the audience. One woman stood up to voice support for Khomeini's call for the author's death.

The death sentence "has struck terror in the hearts of potential Rushdies," she said, adding, "I would do the same to Salman Rushdie if I had the chance."

Her remarks won applause from the audience. The question-answer period then continued as normal.

Mock air raid in Hawalli

By Diane Diaz

SMOKE pillars streaming up from inside a school yard and sirens blaring from fire trucks and ambulances created a stir in Kuwait's Hawalli district yesterday, leading passers-by to fear disaster behind the school gates.

The alarm wasn't exactly false, but it wasn't real either. The entire scene was staged as an exercise in practical training for Civil Defence volunteers.

Students at Abdulla Al Salem secondary school for boys were evacuated from their classrooms just before 11 am as the volunteers responded to a mock air raid.

Treatment

Emergency medical crews set up a make-shift medical centre in a tent, and acted out treatment on 11 students who pretended to be injured.

The student actors walked away from the scene laughing and joking as they showed off the mock cuts and scrapes that oozed with red paint and disinfectant sloppily applied by the medical crews.

"It was a false air raid to check whether (the Civil Defence) is prepared," said Abdulla Abukhater, a teacher at the school.

He said the students were not warned ahead of time and had to respond as though it were a real emergency.

The mock air raid at the school was one of several practice manoeuvres Civil Defence volunteers will tackle. The exercises are part of a practical training course which began on Tuesday.

The training, which consists of a number of drills, will continue through March 28.

Defence minister receives Madani

KUWAIT, March 8, (KUNA): Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed today received Maj. Gen. Yousef Mohammed Al Madani, the chief of the military committee affiliated with the GCC General Secretariat on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait.

The minister later received the Iraqi ambassador to the country who delivered a message from Iraqi Deputy General Commander and Defence Minister Gen. Adnan Khairallah.

Jordanian father states conditions for mother and child reunion

ABU DHABI, March 8, (UPI): A Jordanian surgeon, saying he was protecting his five-year-old daughter from a "very bad influence," yesterday agreed to allow the child to join her Irish mother only if she stopped living with any man she is not married to.

Ann MacManus was fined \$1,600 by a United Arab Emirates court on Monday for hiring two Irishmen to kidnap her child Nadine from her father Saameer Nasser and return her to Dublin.

Accomplices Her "accomplices," Gerald Flynn, 28 and Dennis Dennehy, 25, were each sentenced to two years in jail and fined \$3,000 by

Charles and Diana to get a glimpse of Kuwait's social scene

By Jadranka Porter

THE Prince and Princess of Wales who are arriving in Kuwait on Sunday evening on their first visit to the Gulf state will catch a glimpse of its social and business scene, but there will also be plenty of reminders of Britain's high visibility in the country.

The royal couple's programme as outlined to the Arab Times by the British embassy is a well-balanced mixture of functions coloured with typically Kuwaiti features as well as a distinctly British flavour.

Upon arrival in Kuwait, the royal couple will go to the British embassy compound where they will be present at the inauguration of the new British Embassy Consular and Commercial Office.

Monday, the couple's first "working day" in Kuwait, will begin with an audience with HH the Amir, after which Prince Charles and Princess Diana will be received by the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. Later in the morning, Prince Charles will address a British Invisible Exports seminar at the Central Bank while the Princess of Wales will visit the Handicapped Society.

Before lunch — to be hosted by the Amir — Prince Charles will meet a number of British-educated Kuwaitis at a British Higher Education Exhibition at the Kuwait International Hotel. Prince Charles is the Vice-Patron of the British Council, the organ-

iser of the show. In the evening the couple will attend a dinner banquet hosted by the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

On Tuesday the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Kuwait's National Museum before leaving for the UAE.

Fanfare Kuwait has appointed Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi as Minister of Honour. The Princess of Wales will be accompanied during her visit by Awadi's wife, Dr Sadiqa Al Awadi.

Prince Charles and his retinue will be treated to a traditional

British fanfare welcome at the Kuwait International Hotel extended by two Welsh Guard bandmen and a town crier specially flown in from Britain for the occasion. The hotel will be holding a British Food Festival to coincide with the Royal visit, and the hotel's management hopes that Prince Charles might even get to taste some of their steak-and-kidney pie.

The hotel's hospitality manager Alan Pendleton does not hide his excitement. "It is an incredible situation to be in. We are the only hotel Prince Charles will visit in Kuwait. This is a prestigious visit," he said.

Scottish academics to visit

A TEAM of senior academics from Scotland will visit Kuwait next week. The visit is organised by the British Council in conjunction with the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The academics represent the offices in their universities which deal with applications from overseas students for both undergraduate and post-graduate studies.

They will hold an "open house" for the public at the Kuwait International Hotel from 4-9 pm each evening from March 11-15.

The universities taking part are Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, Stirling and Strathclyde.

The Scottish education system offers 12-years of school followed by 4-years of university

study (unlike that of England and Wales, which consists of 13-years of school and 3 of university). The first years of university study in Scotland are therefore very flexible and many students do not make their final choice of specialisation until the third year.

Since Scotland has a similar education structure to that of Kuwait, it should be easier for students from this country to enter under-graduate courses in Scotland. To enable such students to complete the qualifications needed to enter undergraduate courses, the Scottish universities have combined to organise the Scottish Integrated Foundation Programme. Dr Allan Forbes Cameron will be on hand to explain the scheme.

Iraqi officials inspect reconstruction programmes in port city of Basra

MANAMA, March 8, (UPI): Iraq's defence minister and other officials inspected yesterday progress in reconstruction programmes in the southern Iraqi port city of Basra, which suffered heavy bombardment during the eight-year war with Iran, Iraq's official INA news agency reported.

Maj. Gen. Adnan Khairallah, Iraq's defence minister and deputy military commander, toured Basra with Education and

Information Minister Latif Nasir Jaseen, the agency monitored in Beirut, Lebanon said.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered workers last week to start clearing wrecked ships and war debris from the Iraqi half of the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway, which marks the southern frontier between Baghdad and Tehran.

Hussein made a point of taking visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on a

tour of the waterway last month. Iraqi officials said the visit was meant to demonstrate to Moscow, which has supplied Baghdad with arms and industrial aid through the Gulf war, the importance to Iraq of the waterway, which is Baghdad's only outlet to the sea.

Hussein has ordered his cabinet to give priority to the speedy reconstruction of Basra, even at the expense of their war-devastated areas.

Jordanian father states conditions for mother and child reunion

some 140 miles (220 km) north-east of Abu Dhabi.

Nasser said he had discussed the family feud with Ann's brother, Seamus, who is currently in Khor Fakkan.

The court has already notified airports and border stations to prevent Ann from entering the UAE.

Nasser said he had agreed with Seamus to allow Ann to talk to Nadine "once a week."

Nadine had lived with her mother until July, when Nasser took her on a 3-week holiday in Jordan. There he obtained a Jordanian passport for his daughter following a custody ruling in his favour in a Muslim court. He then brought her to the UAE.



Hamed looks to foreign firms for recognition.

Salesman claims cure for unwanted hair

By Jadranka Porter

HAMED Abdul Hadi Al Haji, a 21-year-old salesman, claims to have invented a cure for unwanted facial hair but has no hope of marketing his product in Kuwait because of an unenthusiastic response from the Ministry of Health.

Hamed, 21, who is stateless, said that although the ministry told him a year ago it would form a committee to examine the lotion he produced, it has not made good its promise. All his efforts to get a definite reply from the ministry have been fruitless, he told the Arab Times. He has registered his invention with the patents department at the Ministry of Commerce.

Interest

Hamed now hopes to attract the attention of an overseas pharmaceutical firm. He recently wrote to a French manufacturer of medicines, and is still waiting for a reply.

Hamed's interest in the healing properties of herbs dates back to his childhood when he watched his grandfather, who was a local medicine man, making creams and lotions out of them. He began working on the lotion to remove facial hair two years ago.

Hamed is reluctant to reveal the components of the lotion, for fear that a competitor may lay claim to his secret formula. "All I can say is that the lotion is made of herbs commonly found in most countries," he said.

He has had the lotion tested on himself and his friends and claims that it produces no side effects.

"The medicine when first applied slows the growth of hair. Repeated applications will stem it completely," he said.

The period required to completely stop the growth of unwanted hair varies from person to person, according to Hamed. He said he believes the lotion could be particularly popular among women who face problems with facial hair.

Hamed is presently making rounds of local chemists to discuss his invention. He draws comfort from the fact that he has found no lotion or ointment on their shelves that can permanently remove unwanted hair.

مكتبة

Sound and words of peace and love

MUSIC and words dedicated to peace and love around the world will reverberate in Kuwait at an open-air concert, due to be held later this month.

More than 5,000 people are expected to attend the concert entitled "Peace and Love" on March 31 at the Alimiyah Club stadium. It has been organised by the Afro-Arab Friendship Group. The stadium can accommodate between 5,000 and 7,000 people.

Lead vocalist Steve Michael, an Eritrean, will be backed by Zambeni, a nine-member African band. Steve

last appeared at the sell-out Bob Marley Night in Kuwait.

Phil Daniel of the Afro-Arab Friendship Group said they want to join world efforts to support peace. "The best way we can do this is through music," Ms. Daniel said.

Tickets, costing KD2.500 each, will go on sale next week. Organisers will announce details in local newspapers.

C

CH 31: A beat concert by the Perfect Strangers phony will be held at the Sharq Co. Hall. For details call D'Souza or Arjun. Tele. 2631826 or 2636993.

CH 14: Pianist Mounir in concert at Kuwait Hotel, New Grand. For reservations call 104/107.

ARTS

March 19: Recent paintings by British watercolourist Patricia Mills will be at the Ghadir Salhiya Complex. Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 4 to 8.30 pm.

March 10: Exhibition of paintings by artist Mounir will be at the gallery, Al Ghanim Bldg., daily except Friday to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

March 10: Natural history museum in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Thursday and Friday.

March 10: Islamic art exhibition at the National Museum. 9 am to 12 pm; Friday: 9 am to 12 pm; Saturday: 9 am to 12 pm. Exhibits include rare Islamic art, ceramics, carpets and equipment.

March 11: The next meeting of the ladies' information group will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel. Please note

THEATRE

ACT
MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents "The Madwoman of Chaillot," directed by George Plautz, at Mousatp Theatre, Jabriya. For reservation call 5731782 (answerphone) or 5755391, 5-7 pm.

SOCIAL

Gala Dinner
MARCH 9: The Great Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call 4831339; 5393151.

KAPILKU Meeting
MARCH 9 (8 pm): The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait, KAPILKU, will hold an officers' meeting at Holiday Inn.

March 10: All chairmen and vice-chairmen of sports committees will hold a meeting. Same venue as above.

Masquerade Ball: March 10: 6 pm. KAPILKU Masquerade Ball at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Andalus Club. Awards for best

Remo to revisit Kuwait

INDIAN pop star Remo will visit Kuwait again in May for a show organised by the Expatriates Club. Remo, who is from Goa, will give a recital on May 11 at the SAS Hotel. The club will also hold a gala-social to crown the Expatriates Queen.

costume, best mask, best couple. Parlor games and raffle contest are added attractions. Buffet dinner. Entrance: KDS.

March 10: The British Tea Party/annual fun day will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel from midday with fun stalls, animal-painting competition, children's super-star contest, soccer and basketball, Leo's magic and other events. For details phone 5624111 ext. 751/739.

March 11: The next meeting of the ladies' information group will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel. Please note

change of venue. For details call 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Get-together and musical

MARCH 16 (8 pm): A get-together with music and dinner will be held at Sheraton Hotel. "Bops till you Drop" music from 1930s to 1980s, featuring Karl and Christine Anderson with the Top Ranks band. For invitations contact 4834938.

Half Science Club
MARCH 17: A one-day hair science class will be held at Holiday Inn Hotel, 2 to 6 pm. Certificate of attendance will be given. Entrance free for all KAPILKU members. For details call Ojie Olor, 5634200.

SPORTS

Mini-Rugby
MARCH 10: Training game on Friday at the Ahmadi ground; training starts at 10 am and mini-rugby finishes at 11.30 am. For details call Hugh McAree — 5326368 or Geoff Bennett — 5332683.

At the Ramada

AL BENDAR coffee shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner: 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arz Band.

The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina takeaway counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 to 11 pm.

EVERY Thursday is Jam Session at La Brasserie, music by Remy D'Mello; sea food buffet and lots of fun. Family fun on Fridays with oriental buffet and musical entertainment.

At the Pullman
ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shallal coffee shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.



Kingma is new king of fitness

ANTONY Kingma is the new executive fitness instructor at Kuwait International Hotel. He will assist the hotel's recreation manager Colin Hall to spread the message of fitness among the club's members.

Colin and Antony, both active sportsmen, hope to develop existing facilities and set up jogging and swimming clubs at the hotel.

Colin Hall describes the Recreation Centre as the "place to be" and plans to make it more exciting by introducing such activities as leagues, ladders, tournaments and sports classes. Members will receive up-to-date information about upcoming events.

Antony studied physical education at Groningen University in the Netherlands, later qualifying as a track and field athletics coach. He worked at an exclusive private club as a fitness instructor in southwest Holland.

At the International, Antony wants to prepare a personal exercise programme for people of different age groups and physique. He feels that "assisting an individual to achieve his or her personal objective is a great experience."

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.45 am
Zuhr	11.58
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	5.53
Isha	7.10
FRIDAY	
Fajr	4.44 am
Friday Prayer	11.58
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	5.54
Isha	7.10

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Dabdoob Al Musiqar: cartoon serial
9.45 Tum Tek and Children
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.30 Variety Show
11.00 Safat Wahid: cultural film
11.35 The Trail of the Tiger: English feature film, starring Gordon Powell

1.00 News

1.05 World today via satellite

1.45 Songs and Music

2.30 Sports in a Week: a weekly programme focussing on local and world sports

4.45 Cartoons

5.15 Liqa Al Khamis: presented by Jamil Hmoud

7.00 News Summary

7.05 From People's Art

7.30 Show Jumping: local equestrian events

8.30 With Islam: hosted and presented by Dr Khalid Al Madhkur

9.00 News

10.00 Shabakat Al Telfizyon: TV window, presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar

10.30 Saab Al Nasr: Arabic film, starring Badi Magdi Wahba

10.45 Najah Mauji, Najwa Fuad, Hussein Sharbini

12.15 Akhtarna Lakum: We Present...

1.15 News Summary

1.20 World today via satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY

9.00 Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons

9.45 Children's Magazine followed by songs and music

10.15 Fazz Al Tush: Arabic film, starring Ghannem Al Saiti, Abdul Aziz Jassem

11.00 Ahadith Mauduwa: 11.15 Friday prayer and Friday sermon

12.30 Alwan



'A Charming Halloween' is Friday's episode of the comedy, the Charming, 10 pm, KTV 2.

1.00 News

1.05 World today via satellite

1.35 Varieties

2.15 Hadith Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Mutwalli

3.30 Cartoons

4.00 Qalbi Daleeli: Arabic feature film, featuring Laila Murad, Anwar Wajdi, Farid Shawki

6.00 Kuwait in a Week

7.00 News Summary

7.45 Good Evening followed by local news

8.45 Hadith Al Usbooh: with Sheikh Ali Al Jassar

9.00 News in Arabic

10.00 Wrestling

10.45 Amiya Al Juma: local show

11.30 News summary

11.35 World today via satellite

12.00 Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY

4.00 Holy Quran

4.10 The Sylvanian Family: new cartoon feature for children

4.30 Italian Football

5.30 American Basketball

7.30 Star Trek: The New Generation: "Skin of Evil"

8.00 News in English

8.40 Breaking Away

8.55 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore introduces this sports show on English League games.

9.40 Weekend: local programme

10.00 The Charming: "A Charming Halloween" Comedy.

10.30 The Challenge: Episode 2.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 The Real Ghost Busters: cartoon serial

6.30 Fairy Tale Theatre: "The Princess and the Pea"

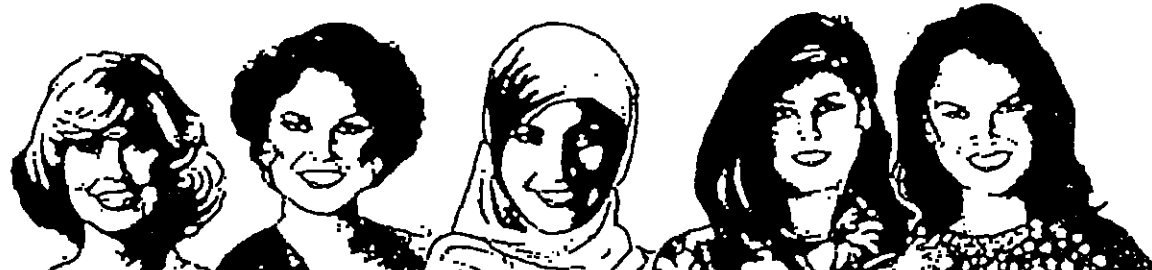
7.30 Face to Face: local talk show hosted by Ali Noor

8.00 News in English

8.40 The Oldest Rookie: "Come Fly With Me." Starring: Paul Sorvino

9.40 Incredible Sunday:

TODAY !! WE INVITE YOU



A FREE GIFT

Get a valuable free gift from National. On buying any of the National microwaves, ask for your free gift. Each microwave has a different FREE gift.

INVITATION

Ladies are invited to attend a scientific lecture on National microwave ovens. The lecture will be held on Thursday from 10.30 till 11.30 am at the National Showroom in Shuwaikh — at the intersection of the 4th Ring Road and Ghazali St. The lecture will be under the supervision of the house utensils supervisor at National.

Available at all National distributors



General agent: EASA HUSSAIN AL YOUSIFI

National-Panasonic-Technics

CINEMA TODAY

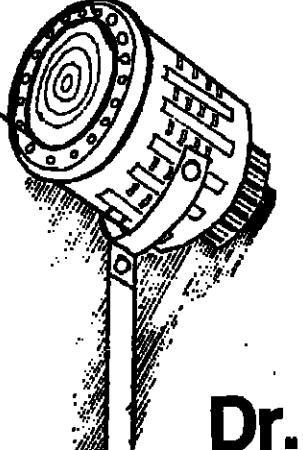
Al Andalus
Bustan Al Damm (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Adham, Amara, Iham Shahin
Fababehel
Daku Hasina (Hindi)
Al Khata (Arabic)
Starring: Nelli, Samir Sabri, Jalal Sharqawi
Drive-In
Mo'allimah (Arabic)
Samah

Starring: Madiha Kamel, Ezzat Alaili, Muna Abdul Ghani
Al Fakhheel
Raj Nandini (Bengali)
Al Jalra
Al Khadimah (Arabic)
Granada
C.O.D.
Salaibikhat
Five Deadly Angels
Al Jleeb
Pyr Mohabbat (Hindi)



at
Indian arts circle
on
27 & 28 April '89

an
AUDIO-VISUAL presentation of crisp & lilling INDIAN MUSIC
composed & conducted by
Dr. SIVA
the show with the difference



8: The Kuwait Cultural Centre is holding an exhibition on "The Art of the Bedouin" at the Centre, Adeliya.

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Baghdad St.
Fahabehel and Ab
Al Burgan Pharr
Souk Sabah, F
Old Khaitan
Al Ahram Pharr
Qittah 2
Jahra
Al Najah Pharr
Area 4, Block 48.
FRIDAY
Kuwait
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Souk Muttaheds
Salem St.
Al Hakim Pharr
Jaber Al Mubara
Hawalli and Nogr
Al Jodhar Pharr
Tunis St.
Salamiya and Ru
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubara
Fahabehel and Ahm
Al Ithbad Pharr
Makkah St.
Farwaniya
Al Madinah Pharr
North St.
Jahra
Al Zahra
New Commercial

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THINK wrongly, if you please, but in all cases, think for yourself — Gotthold Lessing, German dramatist (1729-1781).

OPINION

Iraq lucky to have an efficient leadership

ANY nation that enjoys all-round leadership and expertise in understanding economic, political and social issues, can certainly consider themselves to be a lucky nation.

When such a leadership is well-versed in understanding the modalities of working in the country, the administrative staff take serious cognisance of this fact. Consequently, the question of misleading the leadership by ministers and others does not arise.

This fact plainly applies to a leader like President Saddam Hussein. The President expelled a minister only after providing him with every opportunity to adopt necessary decisions.

This is not the vital issue. Rather, what is important, is that the ambitions of the Iraqi leadership are sophisticated. Thus, administrative staff will find themselves in the "hot seat" if they do not measure up to expectations.

This leadership is not satisfied in only issuing orders to senior officials. They themselves supervise the implementation. This was adequately reflected in the reconstruction of Basra city when the Iraqi political leadership ordered it to be achieved within three months.

As this leadership achieved miracles in time of war, it now wants to do likewise in times of peace. The leadership accomplished several great achievements during the eight-year war and this high level of dedication and accomplishment is now being brought to reflect on the reconstruction of Basra.

There is nothing impossible for this leadership. Thus, those who stop midway because they are tired, should expect to make way for others to complete the march. The new entrants must be well-prepared to cope with the demands and aspirations of the Iraqi leadership.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was a dynamic and far-sighted tower of strength during the war, and he is even greater during peace. He realises that time is like a sword — "if you do not use it, it cuts you."

President Saddam's sword is both soft and sharp — it cuts only when there are bottlenecks. Thus, the reconstruction of Basra will be completed within three months as Saddam ordered.

This is indeed an example for Iraq's future development policy. If this pragmatic and far-sighted policy continues, the Iraqi people should await a new miracle — the new miracle of Saddam Hussein.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Bilingual issue

Quebec's English speakers giving up

By Soli Sussman

MONTREAL (AP): A decade after linguistic separatist fervour gripped Quebec, setting the French-speaking majority against relatively few English speakers, French seems finally to have won.

The English-speaking minority, although disgruntled, appears to accept that the fight is lost.

"Resigned is probably the right catchword," said Donald Taylor, a psychology professor at McGill University, a mainly English-language institution in Montreal.

Since December, the main linguistic battleground has been over a rule that any sign displayed outdoors must be only in French. New issues arise constantly, such as whether the inside of a bus is really outside for sign purposes, but the answer almost every time is that the signs must be only in French.

Language is a symbol of identity and it also is a resource that has associated power, and status, and success and access," Taylor said. "So these apparently minor events evoke very primary feelings."

Battleground Quebec was a battleground of culture and language in the 1970s between the 81 per cent with French heritage and a minority with a cultural kinship to Ontario and the other English-speaking provinces.

Power shifted to the French-speaking majority in those years, but the separatist tide ebbed after 1980, and with it the dispute over language, when Quebec voters rejected a sovereignty referendum.

Then came a ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada in December that a 1977 Quebec law requiring all signs to be in French was unconstitutional. The court said French could be required to predominate on all signs but other languages could not be prohibited.

The provincial government overrode the decision with new legislation for the language on signs.

Bill 178, as it is known, requires that all outdoor signs still be solely in French, but for the first time since 1977 allowed bilingual indoor signs. Premier

Robert Bourassa described it as a compromise.

Rallies by activists of both communities have accompanied the latest round. English signs posted in the street risk being spray-painted. A fire blamed on arson heavily damaged the offices of Alliance Quebec, the main English-language lobby.

Fewer street protests are held now, but the conflict continues as regulations under Bill 178 are interpreted to restrict indoor bilingual signs more than originally believed.

"It's taken 21 years, but the Quebec language war is finally over. And the English have lost," political columnist Don MacPherson wrote in Montreal's English-language Daily Gazette.

Jeff Kelly of Alliance Quebec said in an interview: "My concern about Bill 178 is its silliness. You don't like a law to be silly."

As an example, he cited the Bourassa government's determination that the inside of a bus is really an outside location and thus not a proper site for bilingual signs.

"A lot of people in both communities were spoiling for a fight," Kelly said. "The signs became symbols. Certainly the signs themselves are not what's at play."

A prevailing view in Quebec is that the vigorous political fight of the 1970s spawned a new entrepreneurial spirit in the French community, as seen in the province's support for the new free-trade agreement with the United States.

Trounced Business administration became the major of choice at French-language universities. Bourassa's provincial Liberal Party trounced the Nationalist Party Quebecois in 1985 elections.

Many English speakers opposed to learning French left the province and, especially among the young, bilingualism is becoming the norm.

Alliance Quebec figures put the rate of bilingualism among the English community, which is centred in Montreal, at 60 per cent in 1986, compared with 37 per cent in 1971.

Until December, the issue of signs was portrayed as being no longer controversial.

Punishment for defaming Islam is death

SIR: Much has appeared in the press since the issuance of Ayatollah Khomeini's death threat to author Salman Rushdie, and the so-called negative impact it has had on Muslim-Christian and Arab-Western relations.

The obvious question here is, when have the relations in fact been good? When did the West put the Muslims' interest before that of their allies? However, I will restrain this letter to the Satanic Verses and the death sentence.

As a Muslim who has lived most of my life in Britain and hold British nationality, I would like to give another point of view. I hope this point is viewed as objective and not subjective.

There is a distinct difference between Islam and the other religions. Islam is a very clear religion. The rule is equally simple that is, to follow the Holy Quran first, then if further clarity is required then follow the Sunna, and if it is still not clear then follow the Kholafah (caliphs). Sababa, etc. Islam quite categorically states that to be a Muslim you must follow Islam in total, and not only when it suits the person's problem in question.

The Holy Quran is a divine and revered book that was not, is not and will not and cannot be changed by humans. This basic fundamental is contrary to the Bible which was written by many disciples, amended by kings and popes (the last major change was the pardoning of the Jews from initiating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ), and published by different countries and in different languages. The Western Christians (I do not know much about the Eastern Christians), pride themselves on having a religion that is dynamic and that can change with the changes of time. There is a current amendment to the Christian belief to introduce woman bishops to carry more responsibilities, which is creating a serious division within the Christian society.

To state whether or not the death sentence is right or wrong, one must look at precedent, if any, and to the reasons and/or laws, if any, for

such a sentence to be issued. To ease the problem I will consider both the Western and Muslim precedent and/or laws.

As for precedent and to counter the European statements, whereby the Muslims are a non-law abiding and hypocritical people, then was the US a law-abiding country when it mined Nicaragua against all international laws? It justified its action by stating that its own laws and self-preservation necessitated the action, and when the World Court indicted the US for its action against Nicaragua, the US in turn declared that it does not recognise this court and that the court had no jurisdiction over such actions.

Where is law-abiding action when the US bombed Libya? It used the same reason for self-preservation.

Again, when the US hijacked an Egyptian plane against the very same law it claims it protects, it used similar reasoning.

In all these actions Britain was a staunch supporter. When Britain sued several authors for various articles that had already appeared in previous publications, it used the same basic premise. The British government was even attacked by its own clergy when its actions were viewed by the religious bodies as hypocritical and inhumane.

As for the reasons and/or laws (if any) that were the basis for the death sentence, then Islam is very clear about Al Raddah (those people who renounce and/or defame Islam), their punishment is death. This sentence was implemented in the wars of Al Raddah that were launched after the death of our Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Therefore, precedent exists and laws exist, and the death sentence is a MUST.

The question should therefore be: should we Muslims change this law or not? And should we pass the sentence or not? After all, laws are made to be followed, not broken.

International and local respect comes from respecting one's own rules, regulations and laws.

Adil A.J. Al Hadithy, Safat.

Kuwait-Goa flight

SIR: Goans in Kuwait will, perhaps, be happy to know that Air-India will take them home on Mondays and bring them back also on Mondays as well as on Tuesdays according to AI's summer schedule, commencing from March 27.

AI 851 leaves Goa on Monday at 4.30 pm, arriving at Bombay at 5.30 pm. After two hours in transit at Sahar, the flight leaves Bombay at 8.00 pm, arriving in Kuwait at 9.30 am local time.

AI 850 leaves Kuwait for Goa at 10.45 pm arriving in Bombay at 5.00 am. Passengers are kept in the transit lounge for three hours. Then, the flight leaves Bombay for Goa at 8.30 am, arriving at Dabolim Airport at 9.30 am.

However, the timings of the return flight AI 733 to Kuwait on Tuesdays has to be carefully noted. It leaves Goa at 10.30 am, arriving in Bombay at 11.30 am and the Goa-Kuwait passengers have to wait in transit up to 8.00 pm, nearly eight and a half hours.

Many school and college students have been booked on the Tuesday flight from Goa to Kuwait next month. Parents must note that transit time of eight and a half hours at Sahar. Alternately, AI 733 flight can be utilised by requesting AI to give confirmed reservation on Bombay-Kuwait AI 853.

Passengers have to check-in at Dabolim as domestic passengers and check-out at Sahar Airport pre-arranged with AI at Goa.

The weekly Kuwait-Goa-Kuwait flight must be well utilised by the Goan community to sustain its operation. In spite of problems like customs, this facility benefits Goans to some extent.

Vincent D'Souza, Safat.

SCC didn't take prior permission

SIR: I refer to the letter "A real fiasco" (AT, Feb 23-24). On hearing about Social Cricket Club's disqualification from the tournament, for having exceeded the 20 players' list, club members visited my home and agreed to the disqualification and requested the YMCA organising committee not to report the above information to the newspapers to protect the goodwill of SCC, and we honoured their request.

To say that SCC took prior permission from the relevant authorities before the game is not true. SCC replaced two players, who previously played in the tournament, with two new ones from KIPCO. Winning the quarterfinals was of no use and the players played totalled 22, instead of 20. A meeting was arranged between SCC and Bright Stars CC and

at the meeting SCC lost the voting and had to be disqualified from the tournament.

As regards to Wah Ji Wah Cricket Club's coverage in newspapers, YMCA amicably settled the issue with the club's representatives.

I do feel sorry for what happened and it's high time to ring out the old and ring in the new and look forward to the day when SCC will win the Goodyear YMCA Winners Cup.

I thank all the participating teams in the tournament and congratulate Union CC as winners of the tournament and Hyderabad CC as runners up. Losing or winning is part of the game but most important is to never stop playing, for we are sportsmen.

Joe D'Sa, Ahmed.

Help the workers

SIR: I refer to the news item "Indian sub-contractors in protective custody" (AT, March 4). I am sorry to know that 900 Indian workers are suffering without food, medical care and are not receiving their wages. The Indian embassy should take immediate measures to arrange food for the workers and recover the expenditure later from the contractor.

The decision of the United Malayalee Organisation to coordinate all the Indian organisations to feed the workers with the help of the embassy is highly appreciated.

Leading dignitaries from India visit Kuwait, but most of them do not want to know about such labour problems. I recall the efforts taken by E.K. Nayanar, who was then the opposition leader of the Kerala legislative assembly, to visit several work sites and camps of construction companies when he was in Kuwait for two days in February 1984.

When Nayanar received memoranda from various organisations he promised to bring them to the attention of the Indian government. This was in contrast to the carelessness of a Congress (I) leader who visited Kuwait in 1983 and left behind the memorandum he received, while going back to India.

R.S. Pillai, Fahaheel.

Undeserved position SIR: I was shocked to know that an Indian doctor not specialised in cardiology works in a referral hospital in Kuwait. (AT, Feb 23-24).

Even in India doctors with MBBS (without MD/MS) work only in primary health centres or clinics, and can never dream of working in referral hospitals.

A reader, (Name and address supplied).

Public hazard

SIR: On Feb 17, Air-India flight to Trivandrum was delayed due to Captain Tate's stomach ailment. As a number of such cases has been reported,

ALL letter contain the address. P discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for reasons.

Shahid, Safat.



the ailment may epidemic.

The continue persons in hot health hazard. I authorities who persons from pits where treatment can't be given. In case these ing diseases, prosecuted to public.

A victim, (Name and address supplied).

Magnetic cards

SIR: Last year the Ministry of Communications issued magnetic cards to us for overseas use. In September we issued the cards to those who had returned those. The said the money needed.

My card but so far I haven't received my money.

Shahid, Safat.

Reaching top in no time

SIR: I refer to "Don't Thomas C" "Malayalee wish to the support in people's language with I do appreciate but what I how from you they reach it."

ALL letter contain the address. P discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for reasons.

Shahid, Safat.

Soviet leader facing major challenges

Old problems come back to haunt Gorbachev

By Andrew Katell

MOSCOW (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to permit freer expression has exposed a host of long-ignored grievances that could threaten his effort to revamp Soviet society.

When he came to power in March 1985, Gorbachev inherited not only an economy in virtual ruins but a union of disparate nationalities sometimes bristling under Moscow's yoke. Pollution poisoned cities and bodies of water and corruption was rampant.

Gorbachev's predecessors generally refused to acknowledge such problems and were indifferent to public opinion, claiming that chemicals pouring into rivers and blackening the sky were not harmful and professing that crime was largely a Western problem.

With his policy of glasnost, or public discussion of a wide range of national problems, Gorbachev has lifted the veil.

"Democratisation and glasnost have put the spotlight on problems which were not always taken into due consideration — issues of language, culture, literature, art, historical heritage and environmental protection," the 58-year-old leader told a Communist Party conference last June.

Because previous administrations were insensitive to the problems, he said, "some issues began to grow more com-

plicated...although in principle they could have been settled quietly, without providing a pretext for all sorts of speculations and emotional extremes."

Nationalism alone is a major challenge to the union. The Soviet Union is a patchwork quilt of more than 100 national groups, and several are clamouring for greater control of their own affairs. One republic even tried to claim sovereignty.

Some of Gorbachev's most severe troubles have been caused by the bloody dispute between Armenians and their neighbours, the Azerbaijanis. Gorbachev has said the unrest has put perestroika, his overhaul of society, through "a string of trials" and caused great harm.

The two southern ethnic groups came to loggerheads a year ago over a small parcel of land called Nagorno-Karabakh. The region is now part of Azerbaijan, but Armenians, who make up the majority of its population, demand annexation by their mother republic. Moscow has refused, and violence over the issue has killed 91 people.

In the midst of their campaign, Armenians had to cope with an earthquake in December that killed 25,000 people. They also began protesting against pollution from chemical plants around the capital, Yerevan, and a nuclear power station they feared could release radiation in an earthquake.

The Chernobyl nuclear power

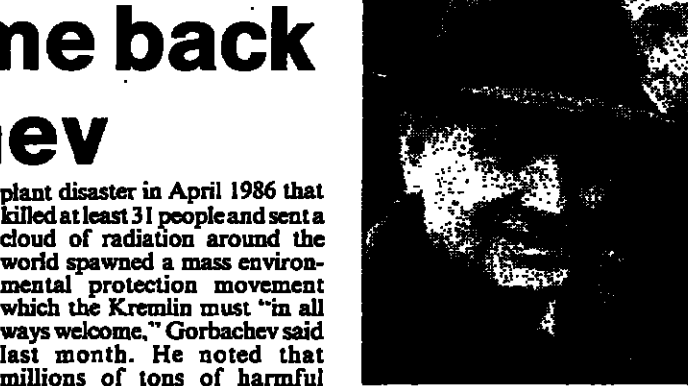
plant disaster in April 1986 that killed at least 31 people and sent a cloud of radiation around the world spawned a mass environmental protection movement which the Kremlin must "in all ways welcome," Gorbachev said last month. He noted that millions of tons of harmful chemicals are spewed into the air yearly, destroying arable land, vegetation and animals, and promised to "completely overcome the underestimation of the importance of ecology."

In the case of Armenia, authorities agreed to scale back production at the Yerevan chemical plants and install pollution-control devices. They have agreed to close the Armenian nuclear power plant.

Shortcomings Glasnost has also pushed authorities to acknowledge the existence of crime and the inadequacies of health care. For the first time in a half-century, the government released statistics showing a dramatic rise in murders, robberies and black marketeering.

Gorbachev also has launched a crackdown on corruption. In the most highly publicized case, Leonid Brezhnev's son-in-law, Yuri Churbanov, was sentenced to 12 years in a labour camp for taking nearly 91,000 roubles (\$145,000) in bribes while he held the government's No. 2 law enforcement post.

In the health field, authorities admit their system of free medical care is woefully inadequate and



Mikhail Gorbachev

that they need help with their shortcomings.

A solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute and the hatred it represents also has proved elusive.

Gorbachev first tried quiet diplomacy — personal appeals for calm, changes in the local leadership and a remedial programme to improve cultural and social conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh. But Armenians were unsatisfied.

Huge demonstrations and economically devastating strikes persisted. When violence flared again in November, troops were sent in and curfews imposed. Several Armenian activists have been arrested.

In January, the central government dissolved Nagorno-Karabakh's legislature and put the region under direct rule from Moscow, although it technically remains part of Azerbaijan.

Ashtot Grigoryan, an Armenian activist, said Gorbachev should be given credit for allowing people to speak their minds. But he added that the Kremlin chief is afraid of letting Armenians go too far on the Karabakh issue.

Benazir adds dash of colour to Pakistan

By Mohammed Aftab

ISLAMABAD (AP): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's first months in office have restored a dash of colour to a Pakistan that had grown spartan under late President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Some of Benazir's right-wing opponents have challenged the new openness as un-Islamic, but most people in this Muslim nation of 107 million seem to enjoy it.

A group of Islamic clergy have designated Friday (March 10), Benazir's 99th day in power, as a protest day against her allegedly secular policies. They claim religious law bars a woman from ruling an Islamic country.

Others see the changes as refreshing. "We had become a joyless society before she hit the scene," said a senior Pakistani diplomat who requested anonymity.

Zia, who died in a plane crash last August, ruled 11 years under a combination of martial law and strict Islamic practice. But Benazir, a 35-year-old Oxford and Harvard graduate, believes Islam should be a religion, not a form of government.

Her attitude seemed to catch on quickly after she emerged victorious from elections last November.

A young, brother-and-sister duo known as Nazia and Zohaib were the first to hit the state-

owned television singing and dancing on after Benazir's Declaration. The one-hour gala left millions of bored Pakistanis hurrying for the tunes for days.

Several quick to file the prodigious Islamic doted the case. A new wave of theatrical satire in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi. It's full of barbs at bureaucrats, good and bad, and the kind of song and dance that Pakistanis seem to love.

Severely appearing covering tradition scarf, a deferent strong r

Left-stopped media clerics and ma newfashion female

Whi nesses: to unnsensiti women from: Pakistan

Liberty eaning Pakistanis have d accusing state-run of being monopolized by gy. Pakistani newspapers gazettes are enjoying their nd liberty with ads and photos featuring slimy models.

e Benazir's cultural openn, she remains careful not necessarily offend Islamic vity. She has directed in government to refrain haking hands with men, ani or foreign.

ary to Mary Queen of ce and King Louis XIV

cht, ending its war with

hwar in India, whereby

of Bulgarians. i Mukden. i China's throne in 1912.

f Dutch island of Java in

ds in Mosul, Iraq. Cyprus.

a Riad, chief of staff of ng Israeli-Egyptian gun

cognize new white-ruled consulate in that African

ng of sanctions on sales of

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1566 — David Rizzio, confidential secretary to Mary Queen of Scots, is murdered.
- 1661 — Cardinal Mazarin dies in France begins personal rule.
- 1715 — Portugal ratifies Peace of Utrecht.
- 1846 — Treaty of Lahore ends first Sikh Britain gains additional territory.
- 1876 — Turkish troops begin massacre in Bosnia.
- 1905 — Japan defeats Russian forces in Russo-Japanese War.
- 1932 — Emperor Pu Yi, who abdicated in 1911, is installed as president of Manchukuo.
- 1942 — Japanese complete conquest of Indonesia during World War II.
- 1959 — Unsuccessful Army revolts erupt in Cuba.
- 1964 — Fighting breaks out in Kumaon.
- 1969 — Lieutenant General Moneir Elbattout is killed during the Six Day War.
- 1970 — United States declines to recognize Rhodesia, and closes US trade with it.
- 1976 — Cable car plunges to ground in Trento, killing 42 skiers.
- 1988 — United States announces lifting of sanctions on sales of technology to China.

مكتبة

THERE has to be a solution to the congressional pay gridlock. Congressmen and senators need more money and the taxpayer is adamant about not giving it to them.

There are some people who are against the raise because they think it's too much. Then there are others who are against it because this is the first time in their lives that they have been in a position to turn down anyone for a pay increase. Consequently, they want to make the most of the opportunity.

My taxi driver is one of them. "I say no raise," he declared, as we started out for the office. "They get too much money anyway, and they don't do a thing for it."

"They tried to sneak the raise in behind our backs because they were too chicken to vote on it up and down. If Congress had come to me and said, 'Rico, we need this to educate our children and feed our families,' I might have given them the increase."

"That's very good of you, Rico. How many raises have you handed out in your life?"

The Art Buchwald Column

Pay raise

"That doesn't matter. I'm a good judge of character, and I know when someone should have a pay increase and when they shouldn't. I read the papers like everybody else. Besides, I never thought an across-the-board raise was a good idea. I'd like to see the lawmakers paid on a piecework basis. Members of Congress would be rewarded according to their level of production. If a legislator shows up every day on the Hill, he is given a standard fee. If he introduces a bill in Congress, he gets an extra amount for it, and if the bill is passed, he receives a bonus."

"Would you give them anything for attending a PAC breakfast to raise money for their election campaigns?"

"No, they would be on their own for all fund-

raisers. At the same time I might offer them a fee for going to a prayer breakfast."

"How much should they get for waging a filibuster?"

"In that situation we would be very generous because it puts a lot of wear and tear on the body. I'd also pay piecemeal for those who give speeches on the floor of the Senate, but I would like to see a system whereby the person making the shortest speech gets the most money."

"Would I be correct if I presumed that each time a representative voted, he'd get a stipend?"

"Yes. I'd have the sergeant at arms sit at a table and pay everyone in cash as they came down the aisle."

"Rico, I think you're on to something. No one has ever thought of compensating lawmakers



for what they actually did, — not even Trotsky."

"It's the only way Congress is going to get a raise from me."

"You're a good man and a fair man, but suppose they don't accept your plan?"

"They have no choice. I don't think anyone has been fairer than I have to the people on Capitol Hill. But I can't justify throwing money away on large pay raises when there are so many potholes in this country still waiting to be filled."

1989, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

By Lee Siegel

LOS ANGELES (AP): Why do poison toads attend a frog orgy? Are you aware there is irrefutable evidence of intelligent life on Mars? And if the moon takes a month to revolve around earth, why is it seen over Detroit every night?

Those strange questions — and a bizarre variety of theories — were contained in several dozen letters received by America's science writers and entered in a contest of "Ideas Galileo Never Thought Of."

The Northern California Science Writers Association sponsored the contest last month during the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held in San Francisco.

Science writer James Cornell, publications manager at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, swept first, second and third places with letters that landed on his desk.

Winning

The winning entry came from a Cambridge woman befuddled by news of mass mating rituals among frogs in Malaysia.

"What I have been wondering is whether all those different kinds of frogs managed to find their own kind of frog to mate with, what with the crowds and confusion and all; or whether they got all mixed up, which would mean that by now we are faced with the spectre of ever new varieties of weirdo frogs," she wrote.

"Also, what were the poison-

ous toads doing there? They're not frogs, after all, and why should they even bother showing up at a frog orgy, just because they happen to be amphibious and hop?"

Detroit Free Press science writer Nancy Ross-Flanigan got an ungrammatical letter from a man who didn't know earth rotates as the moon orbits it.

"The moon is supposed to travel around the earth in a month time. Then what is this moon that revolve around the city of Detroit every day to every other day? And what is it doing?" he asked.

In another letter to Cornell, a

Cincinnati, Ohio, man asserted his 12-year study of Mars photographs "resulted in irrefutable evidence of a civilised society of intelligent beings on the red planet."

Cornell said the writers of such letters "are harmless. They just have a skewed view of what the world is. I wouldn't want anyone to make fun of them. ... They are simply attempting to establish their own version of scientific reality."

Charlie Petit, a San Francisco Chronicle science writer and president of the National Association of Science Writers, got a letter from a man who

Whacko 'scientists' have their say

Among other contest entries:

● A letter to Petit outlined a new theory on "the nature and treatment of stupidity — diagnosis and prognosis." It began: "Human beings (deceitful neurotic talking predators) are uniquely stupid organisms because they are talking organisms."

● A Connecticut man's letter to Scientific American Magazine contended the universe didn't start with the "big bang," but with a "big knock."

● A Miami beach man's letter to Cornell claimed credit for being the genius who "suggested that spare tyres be narrow so they would occupy less trunk space," "suggested a method for curing mental disease with electronics," and "presented some evidence that black holes do not exist."

● One man's letter detailed a "formula for the nature and natural order of the universe." His simple theory: "What must be, must be, and what cannot be, cannot be. Such is mother nature's way of informing mankind of right and wrong."

theorised continents formed and life on earth started when a Moon named "Yasoon" hit the planet.

Such correspondents mean to be serious, and while their ideas "may be silly and funny, I would never regard the people who think of them as ridiculous," Petit said. "I tip my hat to them for daring to say things that elicit giggles. I would not want to be a member of a society where nobody came up with crazy ideas."

Some offer more than ideas.

"I am willing to ... have one of my hands amputated and scientifically demonstrate how regenerative medicine works. As a result, a new hand will grow back," said a Brazilian man's letter to a scientist at the University of California, Irvine.

The scientist forwarded the letter to free-lancer Lynne Timpani Friedman, then a university spokeswoman, with a note saying, "please add this to the whacko file."

The contest's second-place letter, written by a Texas man, began: "Dear sir: It is generally believed by scientists that the earth is a giant magnet, but this is not quite true. ... the earth is, in reality, a giant photoelectric cell."

In third place, from South Carolina, was this complete letter: "Dear presidents, directors and other communications coordinators, global abstinence from March 15 through April 15, combined with curative measures, as needed, can virtually eradicate gonorrhea, and much more. How many months have 11 days?"

people's wit and ingenuity and nowhere are these qualities better displayed than in masking unpleasant truths with euphemisms.

Industrial espionage has now become "competitor analysis" and touts are "ticket brokers" or "turnstile executives."

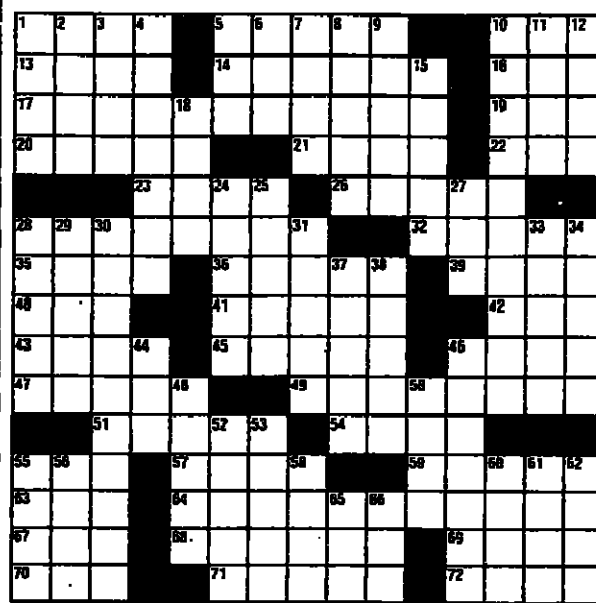
"Creative," as in creative accounting, is defined as "going beyond conventional scope or legal limits," or, in a word, dishonest.

But the cleverest circumlocution Ayto records is "being economical with the truth," which the book describes as former British Cabinet Secretary Sir Robert Armstrong's elegant redefinition of lying at the 1986 trial in Sydney where the British government was trying to stop publication of the espionage book *Spycatcher*.



"I think he wants us to ask him about his holiday."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- opera
 - Lead to the —
 - Poke
 - Arctic home
 - Did a librarian's
 - Hole in one
 - Winer
 - Half a Latin
 - dance
 - Past or future
 - Italian tower
 - Novelist Kesey
 - Trolley, in Britain
 - Betsy Ross, for one
 - Was present
 - Saw
 - Needy
 - Old
 - Black, to a bard
 - Tall tree
 - Dug for coal
 - Nevertheless
 - Rink game officials, for short
 - Long scarf
 - Nibble
 - Small porch
 - Press box
 - Occupant
 - October birthstones
 - Ending with
- DOWN**
- Put through a sieve
 - Fairy-tale character
 - Bates or King
 - Humorist of a type
 - TV alien
 - Costello, the comedian
 - Canvas cover, for short
 - Opponents
 - Singer Delta
 - Long-eared creature
 - Yarn
 - Edible pod
 - Acts as a magnet
 - Songwriter
- Jerome**
- Name of two presidents
 - Deserve
 - Parisian summer
 - Copiers
 - Rental sign
 - Silly nonsense
 - Benefactor
 - Highway
 - Stage direction
 - Brawl
 - Skilled
 - Saturate
 - Raiser of animals
 - Tropical trees
 - Director
 - Preminger
 - Weaving machines
 - quibble
 - Poems
 - Be on a payroll
 - She, in Paris
 - Says further
 - DXVII doubled
 - Ooze
 - Tokyo coin
 - Magnon man

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Void ♡ AJ93 ♢ QJ9 ♣ AJ10643
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AJ94 ♡ AQ72 ♢ AK876 ♣ Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ALATIE AMOS ALAW
LATHE DISC ALAW
MOMENT OF THE SPUR
ASOP ARE ELUDED
RAIN ADIM
ASTRAL AMUSEDLY
NAISH URAL RIL
GRASS IN THE SNAKE
EAR RILS CAMEL
SHALLOTTS CAPAID
ESCHEW NIAN LUPIE
COURSE FOR THE PAIR
CAIRE ELUL RIGOR
APIER DIANS SNOIRE

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K9 ♡ K7 ♢ A108 ♣ AKJ984
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K9 ♡ 8 ♢ KQ8732 ♣ AJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

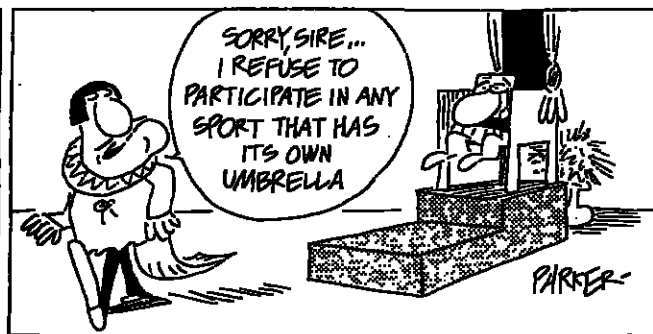
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♡ K954 ♢ K82 ♣ Q1076
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 952 ♡ 84 ♢ AKQJ95 ♣ 76
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?



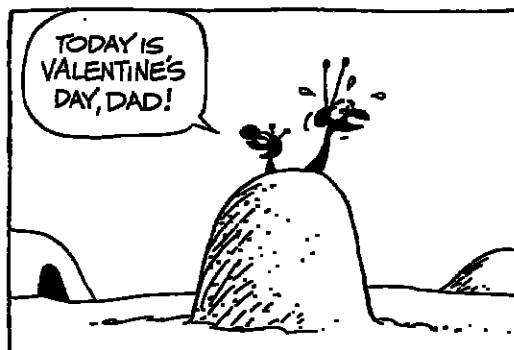
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Can this really be English?

By Giles Elgood

LONDON: Until recently most English speakers would have thought a "dead-cat bounce" was cruelty to dumb animals.

Now, after the stock market crash of 1987, many know only too well that it is a deceptive temporary recovery in share prices.

It is one of the bizarre collection of words assembled by John Ayto in his latest dictionary.

"Bank journalism," salacious coverage of the sex lives of the rich and famous by Britain's racy tabloid newspapers, only entered the language after several aggrieved celebrities started suing for libel.

Jigsaw

Ayto says that in *The Longman Register of New Words* he has "gathered together 1,200 new pieces in the never-finished jigsaw of the English language."

He and his eight researchers scanned over 130 publications ranging from the New York Times to the Essex countryside magazine.

The book records words, some ephemeral and some destined for a long life, that have entered the English language since 1986, particularly in the areas where change has come fast — finance, computing, AIDS, drugs and international politics.

In the financial world, "yuppies," or young urban professionals, could expect to earn "serious money" until the stock market crash forced employers to start "downsizing" their workforces.

In the United States, a new disease that is afflicting the wealthy has been termed "affluenza" — a psychological disturbance arising from an excess of wealth.

Do you know the meaning of these words — 'dead-cat bounce,' 'bank journalism,' 'downsizing,' 'affluenza,' 'American socks,' 'gumboots,' 'zero grazing,' 'jazz ballet bottom,' 'exploding head syndrome,' 'alphabetism,' 'turnstile executives'?

Read on for some enlightenment on the outer limits of the English language!

The spread of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has produced what Ayto calls "a linguistic minisaga," with the word condom developing a wide range of new meanings and compounds.

Campaigns

British government publicity campaigns recommending the use of condoms to stop the disease spreading have brought about "condomania," an excessive and widespread interest in or obsession with condoms.

Those who found the media blitz too much may have developed "condom fatigue," defined as a severe diminution in one's interest in condoms due to excessive exposure to information or discussion on the subject.

In East Africa, condoms are called "American socks" or "gumboots" and the Ugandan government is running a campaign against sexual promiscuity under the slogan "zero grazing," according to the book.

Other exotic, but less deadly, diseases have emerged in recent years.

"Jazz ballet bottom" is a little-known but painful consequence of jazz dancing identified by Cambridge doctors, who found that exercises involving sitting on the floor can cause abscesses to form on the buttocks.

"Exploding head syndrome" is an alarming condition in which patients are woken from sleep after experiencing a bomb-like explosion in the back of the head.

Develop

"Economy class syndrome" is a tendency to develop blood clots, which can cause heart attacks, as a result of sitting in cramped aircraft seats. First class passengers apparently do not suffer from the condition.

New forms of discrimination are unearthed.

People sent to the back of the queue because their names begin with letter low down in the alphabet are now known to be the victims of "alphabetism and those mistreated because they are overweight are the objects of "fattyism."

Complier Ayto thinks the flood of new words is a tribute to

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the
Arab Times

Try and try again seems to be the motto

Indian cinema: once more into the breach

After a disappointing year which saw only two super-hits, and a couple of minor successes, Hindi cinema has begun picking up the pieces, and is ready to have yet another go at regaining its once mighty money-earning status.

THE lull that came over the industry at the end of last year has been mercifully overtaken by a fresh spell of new films, and hectic shooting in progress at various spots.

Year-end surveys have been made and analysed with judgements passed about the quantity and quality, and while results have been rather disappointing, the industry seems to have taken up the never-dying note of "try and try again."

The number of Indian films made during 1988 has been put at 773. This no doubt shows a fall over the three years since 1985, when the output of 912 films was the highest ever recorded in Indian film history. It seems that we are making about 150 films fewer than in the past, and the fall could be due to seasonal changes. In 1987, 806 films were made and it was only 220 in 1981.

On the positive side, there has been an amazing rise in Hindi film production, which jumped from 150 to 182 in the previous two years. Thus the Hindi cinema has also overtaken the output of Telugu films and has re-established its position as the biggest and widest in reach.

In 1988, Telugu films remained static at 162, while other language films from the



Raj Babbar and Kimi Katkar (left) at work on Mr and Mrs 420.

South fell even further, Tamil falling to 152, Malayalam to 83 and Kannada to just 67. The regional films with the smallest output last year were Nepali with two, and Manipuri as well as Tulu with one each. Films were made in nineteen languages in all.

Difficult
It is generally difficult to increase output for the smaller industries in the provincial centres. Bengali cinema with all its prosperity over the last three years could tote up only 37 films. Incidentally it was the only cinema which made fourteen black and white films, while the rest of the Indian production was completely in colour.

Among those with a steady output last year were the Marathi group with 23 films, mainly due to its successful musical comedies and Oriya with 16 films because of its weepy

melodramas. Gujarati films however tumbled to a shocking six in the whole year, despite state incentives and studios in three places. The uncertain law-order situation and the ever decreasing audience have spelt the doom of this once vigorous cinema.

Assamese films also fell to seven, though it has a very big home market. Others with small outputs were 8 in Bhojpuri, 7 in Rajasthani, 6 in Punjabi, and 5 in Haryanvi. Five Indian films were also certified in English and three in Urdu. It is up to the producers to decide whether to label their Hindi films as Urdu.

Of the six major cities, Bombay remains the main centre for production in one dozen languages, though on the basis of sheer figures Madras scored 220 films against Bombay's 190 in 1988.

Films in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu.

and Malayalam were made at Madras, while those in Kannada were made entirely in Bangalore, which also chalked up a total figure of 88 films.

Hyderabad scored even more with 120, though one-third of Telugu films are still made at Madras. The smaller centres were Trivandrum with 84 films and Calcutta still the smallest with 71 films, though in eight different tongues, led by Bengali.

Success
On the success chart of Hindi cinema, prepared by the trade pundits, there were only eleven films, led by two super hits, two semi-hits and the rest getting overflow profits. Another eleven films were confirmed to be earning commission for their makers and distributors. But for the rest of the 119 films, there was no evidence of profit or success.

That means nearly 85 per cent of the output was economically not

viable, at all.

And yet, as soon as the new year set in, there have been several new launchings and production schedules chalked out for many others. Among the notable, there are those featuring veteran stars as well as producers. Sunil Dutt at last spared some time from his peace-marches and political rallies to start Yeh Aag Kab Bhujegi on the burning problem of dowry. He has taken Kabir Bedi in negative role, with Dimple as the heroine who fights the evil system and a new girl Sheeba who is a victim.

The confusion about what constitutes box-office success is

evident in the way new films are announced. Even a successful maker like Rakesh Roshan has to describe his Kishan Kanhaya as a tale of 'tuneful violence.' Nobody can explain this strange marriage of music and 'maramari' but it is obviously a tip from the songs and action scenes of Tezaab which together made it popular.

Anil Kapoor is figuring in a big way in the newly begun films including the one of Roshan's. Another "musical chilling thriller" is Qayamat Ki Raat, launched with Aash and a new girl Ayesha Julka, a former Miss Missouri. The famous father-son pair Dharmendra and Sunny appear together in Arjun Hingorani's new film, and another home production of brother Ajit Singh Deol.

There will soon be films with rhyming titles, as Izzatdar with Dilip Kumar, Samazzadar with Rishi, Jubi, Babbar and Kadar Khan and Karazdar with Amitabh. Trust our producers to follow four Rajan Sippy's Sipahi, though his Shehzade is still to be seen.

A big film started with the backing of Jackie Shroff and publicised through multiple full page ads, with his photo on each one is Angaar, with Shashil Nair, as the director and dummy producer. The "muharat" was done by giving cats and drinks to orphans.

Despite a busy Dimple being the heroine, Nair has hopes of finishing it in one schedule from February onwards, possibly because Jackie, Mazhar Khan and Nana Patekar are available. Zeenat's husband Mazhar is also making his own film Gang, once again with Jackie and another flop hero Gaurav.

The shootings that are progressing rapidly include K.C. Bokadia's Kam Sam Farisad, which stars Amitabh, Jaya Prada and South's Radhika. Producer



Father Dharmendra and son Sunny Deol, team up for two new films.

Bokadia has taken to direction with this. Another popular star from the South, Radha comes to Hindi cinema with Khel Kanooon Ka.

Among others there was some fast work done for Shivram with Shakti Kapoor as the main player and Shashil Nair as the director, Mr & Mrs 420 with Raj Babbar and Kimi, Apna Desh Paraye Log having Suresh Oberoi, Sumet Saigal, Sonu

Walia, Anpa Ghar with Shashi, Rishi, Meenakshi, Bindu, Kadar Khan etc. Jaisi Karni Vaisi Barni with Kadar, Govinda and Kimi, Garajna, starring Sri Devi, Rishi Kapoor and Vinod Khanna, and so on.

There are nearly 250 films under production with different star combinations, and also different rates of progress. Which of the films will be completed and released first is anybody's guess.

Behind the screen

Sunil's new discovery

Sunil Dutt seems to have made a good discovery for his film Yeh Aag Kab Bhujegi. But to name her as Sheeba Arbi sounds rather odd for a girl who plays a victim of a typical Hindu marriage custom. Sunil is known for his discoveries, like Vinod Khanna and Leena Chandavarkar. So Sheeba may also do a good job. But he could have launched the young girl with more love and care, perhaps he is growing old.

Amorous Sangeeta
Has Vinod Khanna broken off with Amrita Singh or not? And what is a strong-headed girl like Amrita wavering about? Meanwhile, Vinod multiplied his intentions towards Sangeeta Bijlani, who seems to enjoy affairs with everybody, till she hits the top as a leading heroine. What will film people not do for their career and the lakhs that come with it?

Rishi punished unjustly
Must Rishi Kapoor become the sacrificial goat for everyone's supposed losses? Recently, Tahir Hussain is said to have denied Rishi his fee of one and a half lakhs with the excuse that Hamara Khandan flopped badly.



Rishi: waiting for his money

Well, Rishi will have to wait till Tahir get tax exemption for the film and also gets it pushed on TV, to get some more lakhs. The gentleman Rishi naturally cannot ask about the lakhs which Tahir's son Asmita Khan is bringing home.

Stay-away Govinda
After Mithun's absence from the dubbing of Ganga Jamuna Saraswati, Govinda has also played the same trick with Aasma Se Doodha. A mimic had to be called in to speak his dialogue. The next that stars may do is refuse to do acting itself before the cameras.



Govinda: playing tricks

Retirement
Manmohan Desai announced his retirement just in time, before the disaster of Ganga Jamuna Saraswati. But some bitchy people say that son Ketan also should have declared his retirement together with daddy. Amitabh is so confused over the next stunt opus Toofan that he has held up its shooting, dubbing etc, and will clear the release only at "the right time." The tall hero has also done the same with Satyam. Now, he has pinned all his hopes on Agneepath and expects a serious angry image to do miracles for him.



Vinod (right) and Sangeeta: leaving everyone guessing?



Sunil Dutt (second left) launches a new face Sheeba, with Dimple and Kabir Bedi (right).



Kadar Khan in Jaisi Karni, Vaisi Barni.



Suresh Oberoi and Mrs B. K. Chawla, at a party to launch director Chawla's Apna Desh.

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIMBED SORES ARE TROUBLESOME
TO TREAT

QUESTION: We're fighting an ongoing battle to prevent our aged and ailing mother from getting bed sores. She is being cared for at home. We're constantly on the alert for something that can help her. Can you add to our understanding of this terrible condition, and can you recommend anything to aid us?

ANSWER: I wish that I had the remedy that could rid all sufferers of their bed sores (decubitus ulcers, in medical jargon). Over the centuries there have probably been thousands of treatments suggested and tried to relieve bedridden patients of these sores.

During the era of Hippocrates, a warm water wash, followed by a vinegar sponging, a surgical trimming of all dead tissue and then a poultice of verdigris (copper acetate), flower copper (copper oxide), molybdains (lead oxide), alum, myrrh, frankincense, gall nuts, vine flowers and wool grease - not a concoction I would recommend today. But even in our modern times, we use remedies without scientific data to prove their effectiveness, such as aloe vera, gold leaf, insulin, sugar vitamins and even iodine.

There are three major factors which con-

tribute to the development of skin ulcers - pressure, time and friction. Pressure on the small capillaries that nourish the skin tissues compresses them, reducing the flow of blood to the cells and leading to their death. The longer the patient remains in one position, the longer the blood flow is reduced, the more the damage to the cells. When the patient is pulled across the wrinkled bed sheets, or the skin moves over the bony prominences of the body, the friction may cause blisters or abrasions that lead to the formation of pressure, or bed, sores.

A sound programme of treatment takes all these factors into consideration and consists of frequently turning, or carefully changing the patient's position, keeping the wound free of infection and clean of dead tissue to aid natural wound healing. A wide variety of topical agents, applied directly to the skin, including silver sulfadiazine or providone-iodine, are used. Newer, moisture-retaining materials reduce the number of dressing changes needed and reduce the loss of newly developed epithelial cells that aid in healing the wound.

Maintaining good nutrition is a must, and surgery may be needed to clean or close the wound or place skin grafts in position. The care of these patients is indeed difficult and you might consider studying nursing literature where many excellent articles about care of bed sores can be found.

ACROSS MY DESK: A recent edition of Medical Tribune contained a report on the development of new bifocal lenses. It's not the usual glasses, though; intraocular lenses (IOL) are inserted after a cataract operation to replace the patient's own lenses. The lenses are still in the earliest stages of trial, and have only been used in 60 patients so far.

The lenses, which are still considered experimental in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration, would allow the patient to see distant objects and read print material without the need for conventional glasses. Though initial reports are sketchy, investigators seem most optimistic about the new lenses, which may not be generally available for three years more.

1989 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

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By Smith



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Spain approves \$350 million bridge loan to Venezuela

MADRID, Spain, March 8. (AP) The Bank of Spain yesterday approved a two-phase, short-term, \$350-million bridge loan to Venezuela in the wake of recent rioting over austerity measures that left hundreds of people dead.

In a statement, the Bank of Spain said it arranged an immediate loan with the Central Bank of Venezuela for \$200 million to be paid off by the end of the year once the Latin American nation begins receiving emergency financing from the International Monetary Fund.

Adjustment

In the second phase of the deal, the Bank of Spain will make available a further \$150 million after Venezuela and the IMF sign an economic adjustment programme.

The announcement, which mentioned no other details, was made following a meeting of the bank's governing board and had been expected since Spain announced March 3 that a bridge loan was being put together.

The Spanish loan is intended to provide liquidity to Venezuela to compensate for depleted reserves caused by its \$33-billion foreign debt, the fourth-largest in Latin America.

A founding member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Venezuela saw its fortunes sag greatly after oil prices plunged in 1981.

Loan

On March 3, Spain approved an emergency soft loan of \$50 million to Venezuela following several days of rioting throughout the country touched off by increases in the price of gasoline and public transportation fares. Nearly 250 people died in the violence.

The price hikes were the opening volley of austerity measures aimed at securing emergency financing from the IMF.

President tries to tackle high inflation

Mubarak to seek help for debt-ridden economy

CAIRO, March 8. (Reuters) President Hosni Mubarak will seek help for Egypt's debt-ridden economy and more pressure for a Middle East peace conference during a visit to Europe starting tomorrow.

Mubarak, 60, who will visit Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany, goes to Europe every year to drive home his policy concerns to friends, trade partners, aid donors and creditors of his moderate, pro-Western government.

He is scheduled to arrive in Bonn on Sunday after talks with Belgian and Dutch leaders in Brussels and The Hague.

Assurances

Mubarak will also meet Jacques Delors, president of the EEC Commission, in Brussels and will join more than 20 other heads of state at an environment conference in The Hague on Saturday.

With the example of Venezuelan riots still fresh, the Egyptian leader wants assurances of continued support as he tries to tackle high inflation, stagnant hard currency income and a \$43-billion foreign debt burden.

When Egypt resumes talks on a stand-by credit agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) later this month, "it needs the reassurance that Western governments will support it in a crisis," a Western diplomat said.

Mubarak is expected to get those assurances from European leaders, diplomats say. He is likely to ask them how Egypt will be hit by the 1992 unification of the European internal market.

Deal

Egypt has defaulted on most instalments since last June 30, when its last rescheduling deal ended, and an IMF programme

is vital for fresh debt relief. Western diplomats say.

The key issue is how fast Cairo should reduce subsidies for basic supplies and take tough measures to reverse its budget deficit.

Western governments have so far supported Mubarak's argument that sudden price hikes could spark riots. He wants a long-term package of reforms over five to 10 years while the IMF wants a crash programme in return for its help.

Over-manning and high joblessness major problems for Algeria

ALGIERS, March 8. (Reuters) Over-manning is a chronic problem in Algeria, where a visitor to a government ministry can draw more attention than most new arrivals at a five-star hotel.

Groups of weatherbeaten old men hang around a reception desk arguing over who should use the one available telephone. The visitor is handed from "minder" to "minder" on his way to a meeting.

The willing helpers are often mujahideen, former resistance fighters who won the country's independence from France in a bitter eight-year war.

Jobs

"We have to give them jobs. We owe them so much," a government minister explained. The statement says much about Algeria today.

Well-intentioned socialism has left it with inefficient over-manned industries. With one of the highest schooling rates in the Third World, the government is faced with the mammoth task of finding jobs for 110,000 school-leavers each year.

The old fighters are in themselves no problem as natural wastage takes its toll. In another 10 years, Algeria will have paid off one debt it is happy to carry.

What is far more worrying for President Chadli Benjedid is that recently young men have started to replace the old ones.

Some 95 per cent of all Algeria's foreign currency earnings comes from hydrocarbon exports. The country's economic problems stem from the mid-1980s oil price collapse which forced drastic cuts in imports and an austerity drive.

Chadli has told the people belt-tightening will continue while the government steps up efforts to wean the economy off a dependence on oil and gas revenues.

The winds of free competition are to be allowed to blow fresh life into the state-dominated sector and a small private sector given room to grow.

Chadli has suggested the pill by offering political liberalism after the measures provoked bloody riots last October. But with little prospect of the economy improving in the short-term that may not be enough to stop more unrest.

Efficient

"It is difficult to see where they go from here. If they really want to make these industries efficient, that means firing people," a Western diplomat said.

Unemployment in Algeria was

25 per cent in 1988. Two-thirds of the population of around 24 million is under 25 years old. Current population trends will see it hit 36 million by 2010.

Groups of bored, unemployed youths hang around teeming inner-city districts where on average nine people share one room.

"These guys were the ones that rioted, and it is difficult to believe political reforms will satisfy them," the diplomat said.

Reformers

Chadli and his reformers argue that political diversity, as evidenced by the creation of a multi-party system, will be matched in the economic sphere.

In the long-term, the government hopes a dynamic private sector will take up the slack created by knocking the over-centralised state sector into shape.

But recent figures highlighted the tasks in liberalising the economy after 27 years of central planning.

An official report said 1988 income from oil and oil-based exports would total around 39 billion dinars (\$6 billion) compared to 38 billion (\$5.9 billion) in 1987 and 63 billion (\$10 billion) in 1985.

Non-OPEC export cuts help buoy world oil prices

LONDON, March 8. (Reuters) Export cuts by some oil producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have helped world crude prices to six-week highs, oil traders say.

The price of Britain's benchmark North Sea Brent blend, although weaker by the London close on Tuesday at around \$17 a barrel for April delivery, was still up by around \$1.50 since mid-February.

Coupled with good demand from industrialised nations, prices show little sign of falling as a seasonally slack buying period in the second quarter of the year approaches, oil analysts said.

Cutbacks

"Non-OPEC cutbacks in the second quarter should prevent prices from falling back too far from current levels and provide OPEC with greater confidence as it draws up its plans for the second half of the year," said Mehdi Varzi, oil analyst at London securities house Kleinwort Benson.

"We thus continue to retain our central \$16 a barrel Brent price forecast for 1989," he added.

So far, five independent oil producers — Egypt, Mexico, Oman, the Soviet Union and Angola — have announced cuts in oil exports amounting to 240,000 barrels per day (BPD).

All these are for the second quarter, apart from the Soviet reductions in its hard currency exports which are for the first half of 1989.

Exports

North Yemen has said it will freeze exports at 190,000 BPD for the first six months of this year, instead of raising them to 220,000 BPD as planned. Malaysia is expected to confirm an export reduction of 17,000 BPD.

Some analysts believe China might also contribute to the round of cuts, possibly reducing overseas sales by 30,000 BPD.

The non-OPEC move contrasts strongly with the situation a year ago. Last April non-OPEC producers offered OPEC a cut of 183,000 BPD provided OPEC cut back as well. But OPEC was unable to agree a response and the offer lapsed.

This time, the non-OPEC group are not seeking reciprocal cuts by OPEC, which has already slashed output by some three million BPD since the end of last year to about 19.5 million.

As far as market fundamentals of supply and demand are concerned the non-OPEC cuts are tiny. Non-OPEC's total exports amount to some four million BPD out of total oil production in the non-communist world of some 50 million.

Jiyyun winds up Iran visit

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 8. (AP) China's Deputy Prime Minister, Tian Jiyun, yesterday wrapped up a five-day official visit to Iran that focussed on strengthening trade and industrial ties. Tehran television reported.

Before leaving Tehran, Jiyun met with Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who praised China's close ties with Iran and called for boosting them further, the television said.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying "more delegations should be exchanged between the two countries to explore yet further

fields of expansion."

Referring to China's warm relationship with Tehran during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, Rafsanjani said "both the people and officials of our country know that China had effective co-operation with us during some very unique conditions ... naturally, under the new conditions, the two countries need new relations."

Experts

China became one of Iran's major arms suppliers during the Gulf war when the Tehran government faced a Western arms embargo, according to Western defence experts.

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Geneva motor show opens

European car market faces sales decline

GENEVA, March 8. (Reuters) As leading carmakers prepare to roll out their gleaming wares at the 59th Geneva International Motor Show, all the advance hype and bluster cannot disguise the fact that European sales look set to fall this year for the first time in half a decade.

A sleek new Mercedes-Benz SL two-seater convertible, unveiled on Monday, is guaranteed to draw crowds to Europe's first big car show of 1989 when it opens tomorrow for 11 days.

But with an opening price tag of \$68,000 each, SL sales will make only a tiny impact on the global market.

Buyers with more down-to-earth needs looking for something new this year are likely to be disappointed by the choice.

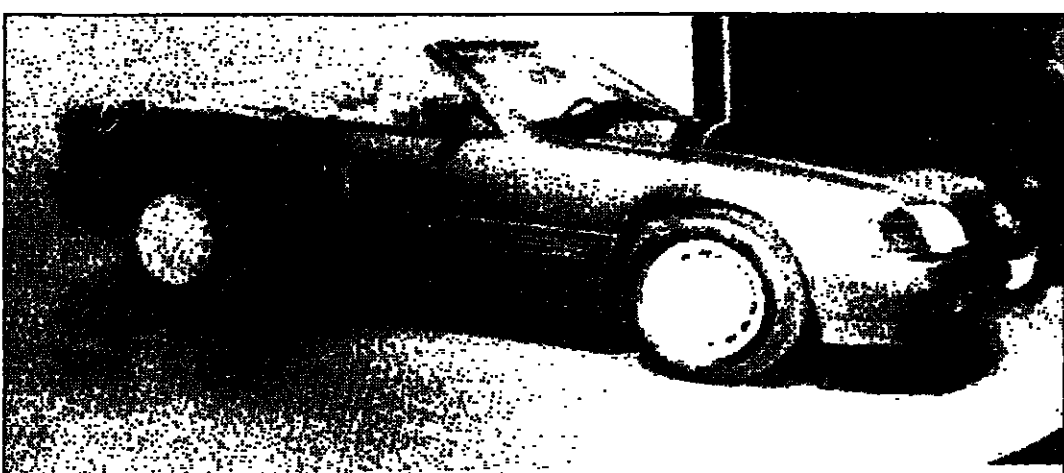
Offer

The only all-new mass-market offering is Ford Motor Co's redesigned Fiesta, which will compete in the small car sector against such existing ranges as the Peugeot 205, Renault 5, Fiat Uno, Volkswagen Polo and a host of Japanese offerings.

The Japanese carmakers are here in force, and European mass producers no doubt be relieved that new models on offer from Asia are mainly peripheral.

Honda Motor Co Ltd has shown a mid-engined, two-seater sports car it says will compete with Ferraris and Porsches, while Nissan previewed its executive class saloon, the Maxima.

But luxury carmakers might



The new Mercedes Roadster 300SL was unveiled in Geneva on Monday at the 59th International Motor Show. The 300SL comes in either six or eight cylinders and has an output of 190 to 326 horse power. (Reuters wirephoto)

feel some apprehension about cars yet to reach Toyota and Nissan's European stands.

Toyota Motor Corp's Lexus and Nissan Motor Co Ltd's Infiniti go on sale in North America in the autumn aimed straight at markets dominated by BMW, Mercedes, Saab and Volvo.

European sales in the US last year fell 17 per cent to 574,600 and the relentless Japanese move up market continues.

A record 12.99 million cars were sold in Europe last year, spurred by new designs like Volkswagen AG of West Germany's Passat, Fiat SpA of Italy's Tipo, Renault of France's R19

and the Bayerische Motoren Werke AG BMW "5" series.

But as 1988 drew to a close, the industry was already bracing itself for a downturn in 1989 sales of up to 10 per cent. Higher interest rates and forecasts of a coming shakeout among the major carmakers.

European car sales have shown spectacular growth, leaping from 10.25 million in 1984, and in the process overtaking North America in 1987 as the world's biggest market for cars.

Rates

European consumers though so far seem to have sublimated high interest rates and gloomy

economic forecasts, and continued to pour into the showrooms, raising sales by 11.5 per cent in January and forcing analysts to reach for their calculators and raise their estimates for 1989 to a more modest downturn.

"We still expect a downturn (in 1989) but not much of one," said Sanjay Dabysing, automotive group director at London forecasters DRI Europe. "January was well up, and we always thought the first quarter would be quite strong."

Dabysing predicts car sales will drop about three per cent this year. "I think the manufacturers will be very pleased about that, it's still a very high number."

Ministers review proposals to limit debt repayments

BLANTYRE, March 8. (Reuters) African finance ministers met yesterday to review proposals to revive their ailing economies, including one to limit debt repayments of one-tenth of annual export earnings.

The proposals were contained in a study prepared by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) which is seeking to develop an African alternative to conventional economic reforms such as those encouraged by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The study, entitled "African alternative to structural adjustment programme: a framework for transformation and recovery," has not been made public.

But the debt proposal is revealed in a report compiled by experts who met here last week to review the ECA study in prepara-

tion for the three-day meeting of finance ministers and monetary officials which opened on Monday.

The meeting, organised by the ECA, has drawn participants from regional groupings such as the Organisation of African Unity, and IMF and World Bank officials who were invited to attend as observers.

The experts' report, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, reflects a mixed response to criticism implied in the African alternative of IMF and World Bank reforms, and the alternative itself.

Framework

It describes the alternative framework as an important departure from traditional structural adjustment programmes, in that it is human-centred and a new window of Africa's economic crisis.

Summing up the comprehen-

sive plan, however, it said:

"On the proposal ... to limit African countries' annual external debt service payments to 10 per cent of the country's annual exports, delegates sounded a note of warning that such action could result in sharp reduction in aid flows to African countries as happened in some countries."

It did not name these. They include for example Zambia which ditched an IMF reform package in May 1987 to pursue its own recovery plan, which included a 10 per cent limit on debt repayments.

Debt

The ECA estimates Africa's foreign debt reached \$230 billion by the end of 1988, on which debt dues swallow more than 40 per cent on average of export income.

ECA executive secretary Adebayo Adede, outlining the alternative framework at Monday's public opening ceremony,

said it effectively attempted to lay new foundations for re-orientation of economic policy in the 1990s.

Broadly it entailed a lengthy process of diversification, reducing Africa's reliance on exports of primary farm and mineral products. This would be accompanied by measures to protect the poor and vulnerable, create jobs and guarantee most people access to essential goods and services.

Needs

IMF reforms, ECA officials argue, have focused too much on short-term balancing of finances, neglecting immediate social and long-term development needs.

The report said that despite greater social concern reflected in reforms in recent years, the IMF and World Bank had generally tended to ignore the social costs.

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RV CORP	17/7	17/7
STH PAC	22/2	22/2
STH HUTC	21/4	21/4
ELL TROU	40/7	41/3
EL PLAN	62/0	61/7
INT INT	10/0	10/1
ITRK BEC	50/1	50/0
OR ON TL	36/6	36/6
URCE CAP	0	36/7
UTHERM	23/3	23/3
FIN FUND	11/3	11/2
	10/6	10/6
LIARE D	54/4	54/5
UUBS		
ONE CONT	32/0	32/1
	37/5	37/5
INDSTRAND	55/5	55/6
NSMIN	3/4	3/4
UTHERMAL	26/3	26/4
YESTAL	26/1	26/1
GAS	17/4	17/3
	45/0	45/2
N BELL	63/0	63/7
C		
CO ENERG	22/2	22/3
ETRONIX	22/1	22/1
EPHONIC	26/1	26/0
EX CORP	0	49/0
ADROYNE	12/6	12/5
ROADOY PET	13/5	13/5
ANER B	0	0
AS TR	51/0	51/0
WACO	53/3	53/4
GAS IND	0	34/3
ASTON	39/4	39/1
CTON	28/3	28/3
ED MED	8/3	8/4
EWATER	8/3	8/3
IE INCOR	115/0	116/2
CKEN	34/5	34/5
CHMARK	32/6	32/6
S CO	4/5	4/5
S R US	36/4	36/4
NSAMER	33/7	34/0
NSCO EX	38/3	38/3
AVELLERS	5/6	5/6
INITY	38/6	38/6
IN CORP	26/0	26/0
IN	28/7	28/6
CO CORP	4/5	4/5
IN CORP	118/2	118/2
BRAND	14/5	14/4
TECH	44/7	44/7
LEVER	62/3	62/4
ON CAMP	34/7	35/0
ON CARB	31/2	31/3
SHOE	19/2	19/1
OP.	32/1	32/1
WEST	61/3	61/4
ALRY CP	39/0	39/0
LEY INC	12/7	13/0
LEO INC	2/3	2/2
INT INT	4/5	4/5
INT INT	27/0	27/0
INT. PEPS	57/3	57/6

18/7	18/3
47/7	47/6
42/1	42/1
17/7	17/7
22/2	22/6
21/4	21/4
40/7	41/3
62/0	61/7
10/0	10/1
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36/6	36/6
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11/3	11/2
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55/5	55/6
3/4	3/4
24/3	24/1
24/1	24/1
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45/0	45/2
63/0	63/7
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24/1	24/0
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53/3	53/4
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39/4	39/1
28/3	28/3
0	22/3
8/3	8/4
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32/6	32/6
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33/7	34/0
38/3	38/3
5/6	5/6
38/6	38/6
28/7	28/6
36/2	36/4
118/2	118/2
14/5	14/4
44/7	44/7
62/3	62/4
34/7	35/0
31/2	31/3
319/2	19/1
32/1	32/1
61/3	61/4
39/0	39/0
12/7	13/0
2/3	2/2
4/0	4/0
27/0	27/0
57/3	57/4

NEW YORK, March 8, (Reuters)—Wall Street stocks were narrowly mixed with rising expectations for the jobs data Friday to help show whether the economy is cooling too rapidly, threatening further credit tightening. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said expansion would become more modest.

The Dow was up two points at 2293 after being off slightly in early trading. The S&P 500 index was down one point. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up one point and declining issues were about even. Fed Governor Heller said that monetary policy this year will be guided by a resolve to restrain inflation, which he said implied continued restraint on money and credit growth.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REUTERS FINANCIAL SERVICES

International Bond Highlights

LONDON: Chrysler Financial Corp. a unit of Chrysler Corp. is issuing a 150 min dir five-year floating rate note convertible into a fixed rate bond. Lead manager Banque Paribas Capital Markets said. (DLHB 1485).

Zurich: Mitsubishi Oil Co Ltd is issuing 300 mln Swiss francs in two-year convertible notes with an indicated zero pct coupon and par pricing. Lead manager Credit Suisse said. (XLEQ 0928) More zero-coupon Japanese convertible note issues are likely in Switzerland following the issue, bankers said. (DLHM 1506).

London: The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is issuing a 100 mln dir Eurobond due March 28, 1994 paying 10 pct and priced at 101-5/8 pct, lead manager Deutsche Bank Capital Markets said. (DLFG 1022).

Zurich: The central mortgage office of Swiss Cantonal Banks is issuing a 150 mln Swiss franc 5-1/4 pct bond priced at 100-1/4 pct, lead manager Credit Suisse said. (DLXG 0823).

London: The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is issuing a 100 mln Australian dir Eurobond due March 30, 1994 paying 15-1/4 pct and priced at 101-7/8 pct, lead manager Deutsche Bank Capital Markets said. (DLFG 1022).

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Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 12-5/8 3/8	12-15/16 13/16	13-1 12-15 1/16
FF 5.80/90	6.20/30	6.50/60
PAR 8-1/8 1/4	8-11/16 13/16	9-3/16 5/16
ZUR 4-7/8 5-1/8	5-1/2 5-3/4	5-7/8 6-1/8
BKH 8.65	8-1/16 3/8	8-1/4 5/8
BRN 12-7/8 13-3/8	13-1/4 13-3/4	13-1/4 13-3/4
AMS 6-00/25	6-65/75	6-85/95
TOK 3.30/32 FOUR	4.22/32 24/32	4.20/32 22/32
EDU 8.12 8.37	8.37 8.50	8.62 8.75

Interest Rates

Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-15/16	9-7/16
3 months	8-15/16	9-7/16
6 months	8-15/16	9-3/8
1 year	8-13/16	9-3/8

BOMBAY

	PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	CANSHARE	175	175	170	GRASIM	107	108	107
ACC	307	308	318	CEN ENKA	2690	2690	2730	GREAT E	35.75	35.50	36.25
ALEN CHEN	---	---	---	CEN SPG	1680	1680	1690	GSFC	143.75	142.50	145
ALU MIS	---	---	---	COLGATE	325.75	322.50	326.25	GU ALK	65	66	64
ARI FAR	---	---	---	CROWN GR	800	800	800	GUJ HEAVY	10	10.50	11.50
ASHOK LEY	71	70	71	DCM	11.50	10	11	HERO MONDA	32.50	31.50	32
ASIA PAINT	215	212.50	211.25	DEEP FERT	36	36	36.50	HIND CIBA	865	850	885
ATLAS COP	45	44	47	DUNLOP	76	74	70	HIND COCOA	105	105	107.50
AUTO CORP	70	69	71	EL HOTELS	55	52.50	55	HIND LEV	74.50	74	76
BAJAJ AUTO	366.25	365	367.50	ESCORTS	61	62	62	HIND MOTOR	33.75	33.50	33.75
BAR RAYON	---	345	358	ESKAYEE	130	128.75	132.50	HINDALCO	239	238	250
BE BOND	127.50	132	132	ESSAR SPG	22	22	22	HOECHST	715	710	725
BLOW PLAST	---	---	---	FOOD SPL	203.75	205	207.50	IND ORG	31	32	31.50
BOM DYE	120	118	120	FORBES	53.50	53	54	IND RAYON	87	86.50	92
BSE INDEX	656.52	345.91	345.91	GAR POLY	77.50	75	77.50	INDROL	292.50	290	302.50
BURR MEL	185	180	185	GLINDIA	88	89	89	INGERSOLL	355	360	360
				GNFC	48	48	49	ITC	58	64	65

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
AGF	215.00
ALLIANZ VR	175.00
BADEMERK	195.00
BAF	282.50
BAYER	297.50
BAYER HYP	360.50
BAYER VER	369.00
BBC	449.00
BHF	476.00
BMW	515.00
COMMERZBK	237.00
CONTI GUMM	248.50
DAIMER BEN	676.00
DEUTSC BKN	511.00
DLW	485.00
DRESNER B	304.50
FAZ BARCOCK	173.00
FAZ INDEX	553.25
FEINMECH	320.00
GLDSCHEIDT	397.00
HARDENBERG	444.00
HOECHST AG	297.50
HOESCH	226.25
HORTEN	220.00
HUSSEL HLD	470.00
KALI SALZ	198.50
KARSTADT	427.00
KAUFHOF	414.00
KLOECK H	179.50
KLOECK W	158.50
LINDE	793.00
LUFTHANSA	159.00
MAN	258.50
MANNESMAN	225.00
MERCEDES	541.00
METALLURG	400.00
NIXDORF PF	301.00
NORSK HYD	44.00
PHILIP KOM	654.50
PORSCHE	734.00
PREUSSAG	259.00
PWA	283.00
REINMETAL	441.00
RHE	250.00
RUE P	217.50
SALAMANDER	332.50
SCHERING	618.50
SEL	293.00
SIEMENS	522.00
THYSSEN	219.50
VARTA	330.00
VEBA	288.00
VEN	170.00
VOLKSWAGEN	339.00

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
C H TUNNEL	15.60
CHEUNG K	10.10
CHINA GAS	18.70
CHINA L-P	14.20
CHINA MTR	27.00
OSMO PROP	3.70
EVERGO IND	3.42
FAR EAST C	0.97
GEN ORIENT	0.44
H C DEVELOP	9.30
H S INDEX	58.65
HONG LUNG	6.20
HONG SENG	32.75
HAN PAR BR	12.00
HK ELEC CO	7.50
HK KONGLO	10.80
HK LAND CO	11.20
HK SHAN BK	7.45
HK SHAN HT	6.20
HK TELE CO	5.35
HUTCH WHAM	10.40
IND EQ PAC	12.20
JARDINE H	19.50
KONKON H	9.35
NEW WORLD	14.40
PAUL Y CON	1.56
REALTY DEV	7.50
S H K CO	2.80
S H K PROP	14.20
SINE DARY	3.20
STELLUX MFG	3.37
SVR PAC	21.40
T V B CO	1.30
TAI CHEUNG	4.87
UNITED BANK	1.87
WOCK HAD	0.75
WOCK HART	0.15
WORLD INTL	4.95

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE	STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE	STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
AIJINOMOTO	2640	2680	MITSUBI CP	1570	1580
AKAI ELEC	707	715	MITSUBI EL	1090	1080
AKAI	1380	1400	MITSUBI EST	2680	2670
ASAHI LKS	2120	2120	MITSUBI HRY	1140	1150
ASAHI OPT	855	864	MITSUBI KOSHI	2350	2350
BANK TOKYO	1690	1680	MITSUBI EL	1020	1070
BRIDGESTON	1370	1370	NICHI CON	1280	1280
CANON	1570	1550	NIKKO SEC	1970	1970
CASIO COMP	1360	1380	NIP ELEC	1800	1810
CHUGAI PHM	1460	1450	NIP KOKKAN	930	933
CITIZEN W	965	976	NIP OIL	1750	1780
D-ICHI KAN	3560	3560	NIP STEEL	920	934
DAT NIP IT	903	903	NIP YUSEN	905	905
DAT NIP PT	2390	2420	NIS MOTOR	1460	1470
DAT NIP SC	1000	980	NOMURA SEC	3610	3600
DAT NIP TO	939	940	OHBA CO	930	944
DALDEN	957	962	OLYMPUS	1160	1170
DALMEIDA	1950	1960	PENTA CON	1270	1220
DAIICHI SEC	2400	2400	SEIDNER	980	980
DAIICHI SEC	1750	1750	O NEMCON	945	951
DAIICHI SEC	2000	2000	YKON	1150	1140
FUJITSU	1450	1450	SANKYO	2200	2220
FUJIBANK	3580	3570	SAIYO ELEC	870	865
FUJII PHOTO	3210	3210	SEIYU ST	2160	2160
FUJISAWA	1650	1650	SEKISUI PB	1830	1800
FUJITA CP	1850	1900	SHARP	1170	1170
HITACHI	1590	1610	SHISEIDO	1680	1680
HONDA MOT	1920	1970	SOMI	6980	7050
ISETAN	2350	2350	SUNITOMO	1360	1340
ITO YOKADO	3710	3690	TAISEI	1800	1850
JAP SUN RY	1170	1200	TAISHO NRN	1400	1400
JAPAN AIR	15800	15900	TAKEDA CH	2340	2350
JAPAN NET	940	935	TEIJIN	840	840
KAJIMA	2320	2330	TKO NEW IX	421.78	427.10
KANSAI EL	4790	4780	TOKIO HRI	2290	2350
KAO SOAP	1590	1610	TOKYO ELEC	1300	1310
KANSAKI H	925	925	TOKYO GAS	1150	1140
KANSAKI S	969	950	TOKYO POAR	6830	6990
KIRIN BEV	1840	1870	TORAY IND	940	935
KOMATSU	1240	1230	TOSHIBA EL	1190	1220
KUBOTA LTD	1090	1080	TOTO	2040	2050
KYOCERA	4640	4680	TOYO KKOY	862	855
MAKITA EL	1500	1510	TOYOTA MOT	2450	2460
MARUI	2680	2690	YAMAHA	1440	1430
MATSUDA EI	2360	2380	YAMATUCHI	1920	1930
MATSUDA EL	0	2660	YAMAMOUCHI	3600	3700
MEIJI SEIK	985	991	YANAZAKI	1400	1420

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE LOWER AFTER EARLY SURGE

TOKYO, MARCH 8, REUTER - SHARE PRICES RETREATED FROM EARLY HIGHS TO END THE DAY LOWER. TWO MORE ARRESTS AT MIDDAY OF PUBLIC FIGURES CONNECTED WITH THE WIDENING RECRUIT SHARE SCANDAL THAT HAS ROCKED THE GOVERNMENT DEPRESSED AN ALREADY NERVOUS MARKET, BROKERS SAID.

"IT CERTAINLY HASN'T HELPED THE MARKET, BUT THE MARKET IS UNCERTAIN ANYWAY," SAID A BROKER AT A FOREIGN HOUSE.

"THE MAIN CONCERN IS INTEREST RATES AND POLITICAL CONCERNS ARE PERHAPS SECONDARY TO THAT," HE SAID.

THE 225-SHARE NIKKEI INDEX CLOSED DOWN 100.28 POINTS, OR 0.31 PCT, AT 31,837.66. IT GAINED 61.08 POINTS ON TUESDAY.

THE BROADER FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, LOST 5.32 POINTS TO 2,421.78 AFTER FIRING 0.76 ON TUESDAY.

FALLS EDGED RISES BY 458 TO 415 WITH 195 ISSUES UNCHANGED IN MODERATE TURNOVER OF 1.2 BILLION SHARES AGAINST ONE BILLION ON TUESDAY.

DECLINES WERE LED BY OIL, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, ELECTRICAL, NON-FERROUS METAL, PHARMACEUTICAL, PRECISION INSTRUMENT, AUTO, ROLLING STOCK, FOOD AND REAL ESTATE SHARES.

MACHINERY, GLASS/CEMENT, SECURITIES HOUSE, SHIPBUILDING, TRADING HOUSE, RETAIL AND SOME MANUFACTURING ISSUES LED GAINERS.

THE NIKKEI WAS UP 181.21 POINTS TO THE DAY'S HIGH OF 32,119.15 IN OPENING TRADE, BUT CLOSED AT THE DAY'S LOW.

NEWS THAT A FORMER LABOUR MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND FORMER RECRUIT COMPANY OFFICIAL WERE ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF BRIBERY RELATED TO THE RECRUIT SCANDAL EMERGED AFTER THE MIDDAY CLOSE.

INVESTORS WERE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED, BROKERS SAID.

MORE ARRESTS WERE EXPECTED AFTER THE ARREST OF THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CORP LATE MONDAY WITH MORE NAMES EXPECTED TO JOIN THE LIST, NOW NUMBERING 12, THEY SAID.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 8, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER AFTER DRIFTING STEADILY DOWNWARD THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE HANG SENG INDEX FELL 22.03 POINTS TO 3,058.65 AND THE HONG KONG INDEX 14.58 TO 2,019.19. TURNOVER TOTALLED 1.19 BILLION H.K. D.LRS, BELOW 1.21 BILLION ON TUESDAY.

"WE'RE NOT SEEING THE BIG INSTITUTIONS PILING IN," SAID MARK LAURENCE OF BARING SECURITIES. "THERE'S GOOD INSTITUTIONAL VOLUME OUT THERE, BUT IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH TO DRIVE THE MARKET BACK UP."

ANOTHER BROKER SAID: "IT'S DIFFICULT TO FEEL THE MARKET'S GOING ANYWHERE OTHER THAN DOWN."

AMMAN

	OPNG	CLSG			
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY			JOR PAPER CARD/BOG	3.75	3.60
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.			JOR PHOSPHATE MINS		
ARAB BANK			JOR PIPES MANUFAC	1.68	1.60
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.60	4.50	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40
ARAB INSURANCE	1.11	1.06	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.		
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.57	0.57	JOR SECURITY CORP	1.12	1.11
ARAB INT. UNION INS.	1.25	1.23	JOR SELPHO CHEN.		
ARAB INTER. HOTELS			JOR WOOD INDUSTRY		
ARAB JOR/INVT/BK	2.35	2.35	JOR WORSTED MGR	5.60	5.40
ARAB PAPER CON/TRA	0.38	0.40	JOR. KUWAIT AGR	1.00	0.97
ARAB PHARMA/MANF.			JOR. PETROLIUM REF		
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN			JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JOR. INV. FIN. CORP		
BANK OF JORDAN			JORDANIAN GULF REAL		
BEIT AL-MAL/BEITNA	1.05	1.00	JORDAN DAIKY		
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN GULF BANK	1.29	1.28
CATRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	EH	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25	JORDAN INSURANCE		
DAR AL SHAAS PRESS			JORDAN ISLAMIC BKK	2.10	2.04
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	2.34	2.33	JORDAN KUWAIT BANK		
DAR/INVEST/HOUS.	0.79	0.75	JORDAN TANNING		
FINANCE/CREDT/COOR	0.75	0.71	LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74	0.75
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.55	4.52	MACH/ESU/RENT/MAIN		
GENERAL INVESTMENT	2.39	2.63	WAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
GENERAL MINING	1.35	1.27	NID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.11
HIMEN MINERALS	0.75	0.75	NIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.80	0.80
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44	NIDDEL EAST INS	2.10	2.00
IND./WATCH JENCO			MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74	0.75
INDSTR. DEVLPT BKK	1.70	1.64	NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	2.00	1.97
INDSTR./COMMA/AGR.			NAT/CABEL/VIRE/MF		
INDSTR. INVEST.	0.75	0.75	NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.49	1.42
INTERN. COM/INV	0.13	0.13	NATIONAL INDUSTRY		
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.91	0.90	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO		
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	NATIONAL STEEL		
ITERNED/PETRI/CH			ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	ED
JERUSALEM INS.	0.79	0.80	PETRA BANK	2.60	2.62
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	1.26	1.29	PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35	0.33
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	20.00	19.50	PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.14	1.10
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	RAFTA INDUSTRIES	1.74	1.82
JOR ELECTRIC POWER			REAL ESTATE INV.	0.66	0.65
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	SHIPPING LINES		
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY			SPINNING WEAVING		
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30	THE HOUSING BANK		
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.50	2.38	UNITED INSURANCE	1.25	1.20
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	UNIVERSAL CHEM.IND		
			UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.68
			WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	1.02	1.02
			YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.35	1.35

Oil markets ease

Dollar boxed in tight range, gold gains

LONDON, March 8. (Reuters): The dollar was boxed into a tight range today as investors sat back to wait for the latest figures on US unemployment, due out on Friday.

Stocks fell in Tokyo and Wall Street and those declines helped drag the Frankfurt and Paris bourses lower.

Gold moved \$3 higher to be set at \$394.75 an ounce in London, its highest for a month. Dealers said gold, bought during times of financial uncertainty, was bolstered by a buying wave.

The dollar is going nowhere — everybody is just waiting for Friday's figures, said one London currency trader.

It was closed in London at around yesterday's closing values of 1.8530 West German marks and 128.67 yen.

Investors seemed to be waiting for Friday's jobs figures for the latest signals on the strength of the US economy.

Yesterday, the West German Bundesbank indicated it did not want higher interest rates for the time being when it lowered its rate on funds supplied to money markets.

Higher rates overseas lure funds from dollars to other currencies so the move boosted the US currency.

But to discourage any excessive optimism on the dollar's upward potential, the Bundesbank bought dollars at the regular Frankfurt fixing of its value yesterday for the first time in a month. "That reminded the market that the Bundesbank is still around," said the London dealer.

On share markets, Tokyo's 225-share Nikkei average closed down 100.28 points at 31,837.66.

Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average rose early on a firming dollar, moving briefly above the key 2,300 level before profit-taking and late

programme selling eroded early gains.

The Dow ended down 4.11 points at 2,290.71 after climbing 51.78 points in its last three sessions.

Major European bourses were more hesitant. Paris' 30-share bourse indicator was recording a 0.06 per cent loss after starting down 0.11 per cent. At 1200 GMT Frankfurt's 30-share Dax index was 8.80 points down at 1,315.26.

Sydney's All Ordinaries index fell through 1,500 to 1,491.9, down 15.6 points. "The market is really suffering from a shortage of good news," one broker said. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index fell 22.03 points to 3,058.65.

On oil markets, Brent blend from Britain's North Sea was a shade easier at \$16.70 a barrel for April delivery.

The benchmark 30-year US Treasury bond was quoted in

London at 98-29/32 per cent, yielding 9.10 per cent.

In London shares were mixed to easier, falling back from morning highs in moderate afternoon business, dealers said. A firmer trend on Wall Street did little to inspire the buyers here.

Lombard settled 7p higher at 345, after touching a peak of 368, following news Bond Corp. of Australia is offering to sell its 19.8 per cent Lombard stake at a minimum of 385p per share. The news prompted speculation the move might flush out a potential predator who could use the stake as a bid springboard.

By 1530 GMT the FTSE was down 1.7 points to 2,081.8. The FTSE 100 share index had touched a high of 2,092.1 points shortly after the opening, boosted by bargain-hunting and a batch of better than expected trading results including those from BICC, up 32p to 492 and GKN up 12p to 392.

Lombard shares were the second

most active today with some 9.9 million changing hands by 1556 GMT.

Analysts said there was no firm candidate to bid for Lombard but there was some talk that Anglo Leasing, the joint venture between James Goldsmith and Jacob Rothschild, might be a potential bidder. Goldsmith this week bought into Anglo, which is now intended as a vehicle to acquire UK companies.

Allied Lyons, in which Bond Corp. has a stake of around 11 per cent, was also active today, standing unchanged at 488 after a high of 508 on turnover of 8.5 million shares by 1607 GMT.

Analysts said there were two theories circulating the market this afternoon. One was that Bond would use funds raised from the Lombard sale to help finance a bid for Allied. The other was that Bond could be in financial trouble and might have to sell its Allied shares which could end up in the hands of a predator.

Oil will continue to fuel world economy into the next century

NEW YORK, March 8. (KUNA): Anyone who still believes oil is a commodity of the past and the industry devoted to it is on its way out ought to have a look at consumption.

Thanks to lower prices and easy availability, consumption rose 3 per cent last year, the double of expectations, industry experts say. Furthermore, oil use in the non-communist countries exceeds 50 million barrels a day, close to the 1979 peak, the report said.

"The most serious error in the business of economics last year was underestimating the petroleum demand," says Theodore Eck, chief economist of Amoco Corp. He and other experts predict demand will continue to climb as much as two per cent a year, or one million barrels a day.

Commodity
For more than a decade it had been fashionable to view oil as a commodity dying a slow death. This was due to the sharp price fluctuations following the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo that contributed to oil's shrinking share in total energy use.

But all indications are that oil, the principal energy source of this century, will fuel the world economy into the next century as well.

Although oil demand isn't growing as rapidly as before the 1973 price run-ups, petroleum's share today is still better than 40 per cent of total energy use.

The European Economic Community expects demand in Europe to grow by one third between now and the year 2010. In the centrally planned economies, the EEC predicts a two-fold increase in demand, and a three-fold jump in developing countries.

Sluggish
In the United States where energy consumption has been sluggish, use is currently forecast to rise nearly a "quad" annually, reaching some 90 "quads" by 2000. A quad is one quadrillion British thermal units. A thermal unit is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of a pound of water by one degree.

For a while it appeared that energy consumers were moving away from oil — to nuclear

power, coal and natural gas. But costs and safety concerns have stalled nuclear power development, particularly in the US.

Coal could play a greater role in the production of electricity, but it probably won't because there has been little progress in turning it into a clean-burning fuel.

Natural gas can be an attractive substitute for oil and coal in many uses because it is less polluting, but it is expensive to transport across oceans. The assumption is that gas use will increase rapidly, but only on continents where it is produced.

In the US the trend toward natural gas is particularly pronounced, and many oil companies are expanding their search for gas while placing lesser emphasis on oil.

Still, oil's privileged energy position has no immediate challengers. As oil production outside the OPEC countries peaks and begins to decline in the next few years, the focus of production will shift to the Arabian Gulf countries where the bulk of the world's reserves are.

Fed determined to keep a lid on growth in money supply

WASHINGTON, March 8. (UPI): The Federal Reserve has determined to keep a lid on growth in the money supply to control the potential for an inflationary outbreak. Federal Reserve Governor H. Robert Heller said today.

Speaking in Cologne, West Germany, Heller said the US central bank had "leaned toward greater restraint in order to forestall any pickup in inflation" since early 1988.

"Short-term interest (rates) have risen over 3 percentage points since last spring, and growth in the monetary aggregates has slowed to the lower half of our monetary targets," Heller said in a speech distributed in Washington.

Stability
For the future, Heller said the Fed's goal of price stability requires "continued restraint on the expansion in money and credit."

That will mean higher interest rates for consumers and businesses and less money for economic expansion, threatening the key-stone of President Bush's hopes of bringing down the huge federal budget deficit by economic growth alone.

Heller said the Fed had lowered its target ranges for growth in the money supply in 1989 by a full percentage point to a range between 3 per cent and 7 per cent, close to West Germany's target.

Seminar on overview of credit operations

THE Commercial Bank of Kuwait held a seminar on letter of credit operation for its corporate and branch customers at the Regency Palace Hotel on March 7-8 which attracted a big audience.

Major topics discussed were an overview of credit operations and documentary fraud problems related to financing international trade. The seminar included lectures on different aspects of LC operations, discussions and question-and-answer sessions. An expert panel comprised of the bank's executives answered queries from the participants.

Objectives
The organisers of the event said that the main objectives of the seminar were to make customers aware of risks and problems associated with international trade and the growing need to be on guard against documentary fraud.

The outcome of the seminar was quite fruitful as it paved the way for comprehending and analysing problems faced by corporate and retail customers of the bank.

The bank's LC, treasury and international departments were represented at the event.

Syria voices support for OAPEC

DAMASCUS, March 8. (KUNA): Syrian Premier Mahmoud Al Za'abi last night met with Secretary-General of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, who underlined the need for greater Arab co-operation in co-ordinating oil policies.

The OAPEC secretary-general earlier met with Syrian Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Entanious Habib and reviewed the organisation's role in strengthening Arab economic integration.

Savings rate declines

American productivity edges up at 0.1pc

WASHINGTON, March 8. (AP): US workers' productivity edged up at a tiny annual rate of 0.1 per cent from October through December while unit labour costs, a major inflation measure for business, shot up by 5.6 per cent, the government reported today.

The 0.1 per cent rise in non-farm business productivity, output per hour worked, continued a jagged pattern in effect for all of last year with a strong gain in one quarter followed by a poor showing in the next quarter.

Productivity had risen at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1988 only to plunge at a rate of 2.4 per cent in the second quarter. It then rose at a 2 per cent rate in the July-September quarter only to slow to the minuscule 0.1 per cent advance in the final three months of the year.

Rates
Of particular concern to economists were signs that tight labour markets and high factory operating rates were beginning to show up in inflationary pressures.

Unit labour costs, which reflect changes in hourly compensation as well as changes in productivity, rose at an annual rate of 5.6 per cent in the fourth

quarter, almost double the 3.7 per cent rate of increase in the third quarter.

It was the biggest increase in unit labour costs since a 6.8 per cent rise in the second quarter last year.

The figures released today represented only slight revisions from an initial productivity report issued a month ago. The 5.6 per cent rise in unit labour costs was unchanged from the prior report.

Escalation
Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan cited the sharp escalation of unit labour costs as one factor behind the Central Bank's recent anti-inflation moves. The Fed — the American central bank — is hoping that by pushing up interest rates it will dampen demand enough to cool an overheated economy and prevent an inflationary wage-price spiral from taking hold.

For the year as a whole, productivity increased 1.4 per cent, matching the average annual gain since the end of the 1981-82 recession.

While the increase was up slightly from a 0.8 per cent rise in 1987, it was still far below the 2 per cent annual gains President George Bush's administration is counting on in future years to

shrink the \$170 billion budget deficit to zero by 1993.

Meeting the Bush targets for productivity is considered essential to reaching the administration's optimistic projections for overall growth of the economy without triggering higher inflation rates.

Meanwhile an alarming decline in the national savings rate is the biggest economic problem facing the United States and the chief cause of its huge trade deficits, according to a private report released today.

Decline
The report, by the private American Business Conference, said that while the government's huge budget deficits have contributed to the problem, the decline primarily has been caused by high consumption by individuals.

"This over-consumption is financed through large-scale sales of US assets to foreigners at unfavourable terms, a process that postpones the day of reckoning but that increasingly mortgages the US economic future," the report said.

"The low rate of net investment during the mid-1980s is inconsistent with sustained economic growth and international competitiveness," the report

said. "In fact, it has been argued that a rate of net investment far greater, not less, than that of the past is needed for our country to compete and prosper over the remainder of the century."

Overall, national savings — the difference between the nation's output in goods and services and what is consumed by government and individuals — fell from 7.9 per cent in the 1970s to 2.1 per cent during 1985-87, the study found.

Consumption
Over the same period, individuals' consumption of goods and services rose from 69.3 per cent of national income to 74.1 per cent.

The increase in personal consumption was attributed largely to growth in disposable income, a rise in household wealth that exceeded the increase in national wealth, the maturing of the population to ages above 16, when spending is higher, and the spending of equity that was converted to cash in corporate takeovers and buyouts.

The report said the tendency to spend what is on hand is highlighted when people receive unexpected lumps of cash from their stock investments, when they are paid premiums in the course of corporate buyouts.

US still weighing Third World debt strategy

WASHINGTON, March 8. (AP): US President George Bush's administration has completed a review of Third World debt strategy but is still deciding what approaches to take to the problem, officials said yesterday.

Plan
Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady refused to answer specific questions about a new report detailing elements of the plan the administration has under review. He told reporters after congressional testimony on the Bush budget that questions about Third World debt would be answered at an upcoming hearing.

Art Siddon, a Treasury Department spokesman, said the agency had completed its review

and officials were examining possible changes but that no final decisions had been made.

Siddon said he could not comment on a Washington Post story which said the administration's plan would put heavy emphasis on encouraging banks to voluntarily forgive part of the debt owed to them by developing nations.

The newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying that the plan under consideration by the administration would emphasise reducing the size of outstanding debt. The plan also calls for tapping the resources of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to make it more attractive for banks

to forgive a portion of their loans, the newspaper said.

In a speech last week, Brady termed Third World debt "perhaps the most difficult" of the major issues facing the new administration.

"Unlike the federal budget deficit or even the savings and loan industry crisis, this is not a problem that we in the US have the power or the resources to solve by ourselves," Brady said in a speech to the American Bankers Association.

The new administration is receiving pressure from US allies to go beyond the "Baker Plan," formulated by Secretary of State James A. Baker III in 1985 when he was US Treasury Secretary.

Under the Baker Plan, the international banking community was to provide about \$30 billion in new loans to Third World debtors who agreed to make economic reforms.

But the amount of new bank lending fell far short of the goals and as a result there has been growing pressure for a new approach that would reduce the debt burden.

That pressure intensified last week after riots in Venezuela were touched off when the newly elected government of President Carlos Andres Perez announced austerity measures as part of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to get more loans for the country.

Mexico's oil prices rise

MEXICO CITY, March 8. (UPI): The prices of Mexico's light and heavy crudes rose by 23 cents a barrel on the Far Eastern market in February, a spokesman for the state-run Petroleos Mexicanos oil company said today.

The Pemex spokesman said he expects the Soviet Union's decision to cut its oil exports to further boost world oil prices.

The price of Mexico's light isthmus crude climbed to \$15.08 a barrel on the Far Eastern market in February from \$14.85 a barrel in January, he said. The price of heavy Maya crude went up to \$12.43 a barrel from \$12.20 a barrel over the same period.

Mexico exports a mixture of 40 per cent Isthmus and 60 per cent Maya.

"The prices of Mexican oil for European and American clients will be announced today or tomorrow," the spokesman said.

Mexico ships about 10 per cent of its total oil exports to the Far East. With the bulk going to Japan. In February, Mexico sold 62 per cent of its oil exports to the United States and 13 per cent to Spain, the spokesman said.

He predicted that oil prices would reach OPEC's target price of \$18 a barrel this year as a result of cutbacks in oil exports by some independent producers, including the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer.

The Soviet Union said last week that it would trim oil exports by five per cent in an effort to help the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries stabilise international oil prices.

Soviet officials said the export

UK trade team for Kuwait

FOURTEEN members of a British trade mission, organised by the Engineering Industries Association and led by Colonel W.T. Williams, will visit Kuwait from March 9-14.

The interests of the mission members, most of whom are old hands to Kuwait, cover a wide range of engineering-related products and services, including the manufacture of lighting equipment, electronic components, centrifugal pumps and pump sets, building materials, chemicals, industrial gases, traffic safety products and services, motor accessories, heat treatment equipment, water wells and process screens, as well as agriculture and irrigation consultancy.

Kuwait likely to introduce new investment instruments

KUWAIT, March 8. (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khudaid said here today that the profits distributed by local companies and banks this year are good.

The minister also expressed the hope that new investment instruments would be introduced which might be beneficial to Kuwait investors.

Activity
The minister, speaking to reporters after inaugurating a painting exhibition for the ministry's staff, explained that the Kuwaiti economy is linked with the economies of the world and the countries of the region.

He added that despite the circumstances that have taken place, commercial activity in Kuwait is good, and he hoped

that a better trade movement would be witnessed by the Kuwaiti market with the return of markets that formerly depended on it.

Khaled also disclosed that he had discussed with the Chinese ambassador today the visit to Kuwait by Chinese Deputy Premier Tian Jiyun, due to take place March 14-16.

The minister said the Chinese official will be received by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the deputy premier and foreign minister and the minister of finance, as well as officials of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, Kuwait Investments Authority and the president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 8. (Reuters): The All Ordinaries index fell 15.6 points to close at 1,491.9. "The market is really suffering from a shortage of good news," one broker said.

TOKYO: More arrests of public figures in the Recruit scandal depressed an already nervous market. The Nikkei index fell 100.28 points to 31,837.66. "The main concern is interest rates. Political concerns are perhaps secondary," a

broker said.

HONG KONG: The Hang Seng index fell 22.03 points to 3,058.65. "There's good institutional volume out there," said Mark Lawrence of Baring Securities, "but it's not big enough to drive the market back up."

BOMBAY: Share prices rose for the second day in a row on continued institutional and upcountry buying, brokers said.

ZURICH: Prices edged lower in active trading after early selling ceased and selected bargain-hunting lifted prices above the day's lows. The All-Share index closed at 982.4 against 985 yesterday.

Trade barriers endanger Third World reforms, says UN

GENEVA, March 8. (AP): Rising trade barriers in rich countries are threatening the success of moves toward economic reform and debt repayment in many parts of the Third World, UN officials told a meeting on trade and development yesterday.

Neither sustained economic growth nor open-market commitments made when the current round of world trade talks was launched in 1986 "have broken the back of protectionism in the developed countries," said Kenneth Dazie, secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

In a keynote speech to the agency's 131-nation board, he cited a "widespread though varied movement toward trade-oriented policy reform in developing countries."

But Dazie said the efforts "cannot succeed without a supportive combination of financial and technological inflows and export expansion."

Tariff escalation in industrialised countries is cutting off access to finished and semi-finished products from developing nations, UNCTAD official B.L. Das told the two-week meeting.

Third World exports of textiles, clothing, farm products and tropical products continue to face above-average duties in developed countries, he added.

But debt-ridden developing countries are counting on opportunities to expand and diversify trade to escape from their economic crisis, Das said.

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They include new non-tariff barriers and increasing export subsidies, market-sharing accords and surveillance measures, he said. "Tariff relief for Third World imports has been declining, he added."

UNCTAD is considered the main forum for the North-South dialogue. But it has tended to be eclipsed by world trade negotiations under the 96-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, where developing countries can press their interests in global commerce.

Dazie said "substantive deliberation and negotiation on policy issues" has been declining in UNCTAD. He said these "disturbing tendencies" threaten to cloud the "political perspectives" opened at UNCTAD's last plenary conference in 1987.

OPEC cuts back oil production

BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 8. (AP): The OPEC nations' production of oil in February, off 900,000 barrels from January.

"The reduction," it said, "is due primarily to lower production in several Middle Eastern countries as well as a slight production decline in the (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)."

The OECD is an organisation of about two dozen industrialised nations.

Oil output in those nations, it said, was estimated at 16.2 million barrels a day in February, down 100,000 barrels from January.

The report also said strong economic growth, especially in Japan, helped lift oil consumption in the industrialised nations to 38.8 million barrels a day in the October-December quarter, up about five per cent from year-earlier levels.

Boosted
The slowdown in output has boosted prices. The average price of a barrel of oil monitored by OPEC was \$16.31 a barrel last week, 34 to 5 above the level of late November.

Independent oil-producing nations also have agreed to diminish exports in the April-June quarter in an effort to bolster prices more. As part of that drive, the Soviet Union announced on Friday it will cut its exports by about five per cent in the first half of the year.

The Soviet Union, the world's largest crude producer, sells foreign clients an estimated 1.8 million barrels of oil a day.

The International Energy Agency's report estimated the

world oil supply at 49.6 million barrels a day in February, off 900,000 barrels from January.

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P.O. Box 24993 Safat
13110 - Kuwait

50 كذا من يخط

Dear Junior Readers,

Every child around the world is told to drink milk. Flavoured milk is available too, to encourage those who do not like plain milk. Why though, is milk such a common subject on the elder's behalf? Many people consider milk to be the most nearly perfect food we have. This because of all the good things it does to your body. Proteins used to build and repair muscles are found in milk. So is fat on energy-giving food. Milk also has sugar, an energy giving carbohydrate. This sugar is known as lactose, it is less sweet than cane sugar but more easily used up by the body. The body also gets important minerals from milk, which are used as bone-building and blood-building foods. Calcium, a very important mineral is found of its greatest quantity in milk. Milk also provides us with many vitamins including A, B, C, and D. It also contains water. So next time your parents tell you to drink your milk, think of all the good it offers before complaining. Nana.

March poem

March

A Spike of Green

When I went out
The sun was hot
It shone upon
My flower pot.
And there I saw
A spike of green
That no one else
Had ever seen!
On other days
The things I see
Are mostly old
Except for me.
But this green spike
So new and small
Had never yet
Been seen at all!
Barbara Baker

from All Day Long
compiled by Pamela Whitlock



The magic poppy

Continued from Tuesday

Giants are red, giants are blue, I thought. I held my breath. What a terrifying spectacle he was! He looked as if he could pick up mountains with the greatest of ease, and smash them into powder. One great shaggy head, with its bulging eyes, stared before him, the other constantly peered behind. So wherever he was, he could see all round him. But fortunately he didn't catch sight of us hiding in the creper.

As soon as he had vanished round the far side of the castle, we were down, and running towards the boat as if our lives depended on it; which of course they did. If only the boat were still there! What should we do if it had gone? But when we arrived at the landing stage, there it was, nestling against the bank, like a dog that has been put on trust.

"Boat! Boat!" I cried, as we jumped in. "Hurry, take us please — er — to where I found you!" Would that do? I couldn't think of the name. But the boat obviously understood where I meant, because it set off at what seemed a snail's pace across the lake. The mist had cleared, and we were in full view of Slintingriel's gigantic castle. I just prayed that, for the moment, no one would look out of the windows.

We had reached the buoy with its tolling bell before there were any signs of pursuit; and then far away, in between the tolling, we

heard shouts, and sounds of commotion from the castle; and just as the boat nosed into the entrance of the cavern, the King pointed behind us.

"Look," he shouted.

"He's after us!"

It was true. We were into the gloom of the cavern by now, and from this distance he looked small enough; but far away as he was, I could make out the figure of Giant Slintingriel striding after us. He still had some way to go; it is difficult, even for a giant, to wade through deep and partly frozen water in a hurry. But he was fast gaining on us. I understood now why the river murmured tremble, tremble, tremble, faintly in the darkness. I was trembling too. The boat put on a sudden spurt of speed, as if it understood our plight. But behind us, as the tolling of the bell grew fainter, we could hear the splashing of footsteps.

We had reached the bank and were racing from the boat to the door, when he finally caught up with us, and planting one huge wet foot firmly in front of the doorway, blocked it, so that it was impossible to pass.

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" he laughed, bending those two terrible great heads down to have a closer look at us — at me, whom he had not seen before. "What have we here?"

All was lost, or so it seemed! We shrank against the wall, paralysed with fright. Four great eyes glared out of the darkness,

and I could see, inches away, his huge dirty, stubby fingers stretched towards us. He was almost there! But at the last moment I recovered my wits, and snatching the Silver Pipe from my pocket, blew into it as hard as I could. Surprised by this unfamiliar sound, the Giant hesitated; and immediately the two rats — whom I had forgotten all about, and who were still sprawled in the shadows on either side of the doorway — sprang to life. Leaping forward, they sank their sharp teeth into the Giant's foot as far as they would go.

There was a thunderous bellow from above, which almost split our ears. The Giant straightened up and started to hop about in the water, holding his injured foot, with the rats still clinging to it. We didn't wait to see any more: we were through that door in a moment, and running up the passage as fast as our legs would carry us. We never stopped once, not for a single instant, until we reached the open air; and there we sank, exhausted, on to the frozen surface of the lake.

The Poppy was waiting as he had promised he would, and after resting for a little while, we started on the long journey back to Farrenfeugh.

And now my memory fades a little, although certain things stand out clearly. The flat roof of the tower, crowded with people anxiously waiting for our return. The great cheer that



rang out as they saw us approaching. The Queen's face, as the King held her in his arms again. But most of all, I remember the feast set out on long tables in the palace below, to celebrate our return and the defeat of Giant Slintingriel.

I sat on a small wooden chair, between the King and Queen on their golden thrones. The Poppy hovered behind us; and all round us sat the strange Farrenfeugh people: the two tall stick soldiers, the Grasshopper Man, the round grey leather people, and the jewelled courtiers and palace officials. On the far side of the room, I noticed three more Poppies, in a group together — So they haven't all gone, I thought — and what food! I've never seen such an array of extraordinary dishes, although now I think of it, a strange thing, it was all in varying shades of green. Green soup; green meats and vegetables; very pale green ice-cream, and a delicious assortment of fruit

pies and tarts, all green too. Even the wine was green. I tried everything! Each dish was better than the last; when we could eat no more, we pulled crackers, and then sat round the fire eating chestnuts and reading the jokes from the crackers.

I suppose I might have stayed there for days, if I hadn't remembered my father's birthday.

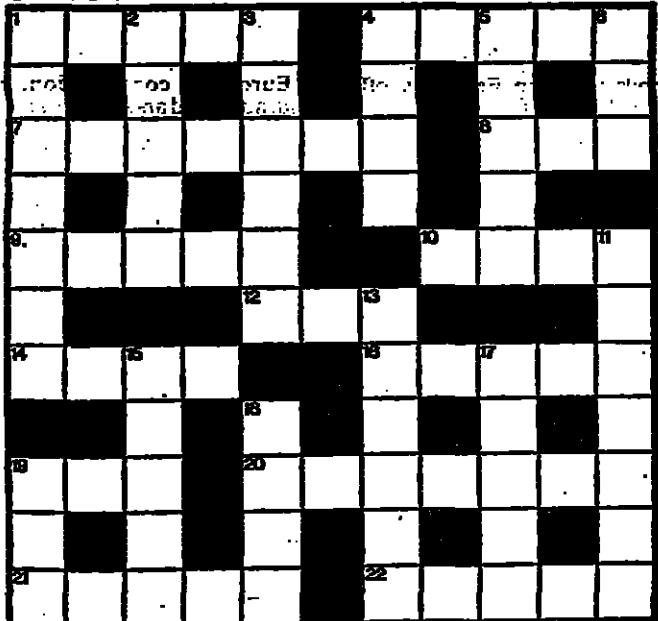
"I think I ought to go now," I said, getting to my feet rather suddenly. "Oh!" they all cried. "Not yet. Not yet, surely?" and the Queen leaned forward and offered me more ice-cream. But when I explained that my parents would worry, and anyway my father's birthday was coming the next day, the King shook my hand, and the Queen kissed me; and all the courtiers and soldiers clapped and shouted in the air. Then they all crowded up the stairs, as we made our way to the top of the tower. "We'll never forget you," they shouted.

"Good-bye! Good-bye! Come back and see us one day." I watched them waving their handkerchiefs, getting smaller and smaller, their voices fainter and fainter, as the Poppy and I floated higher and ever higher. At last I could hear and see them no more.

The Poppy took me back to the lane where we first met, and after having said good-bye several times, soared away into the sky, and disappeared into the shimmering blue far above. I collected my bait-pot, and walked home slowly, thinking about my adventures. When I got home, it was tea-time, and my mother couldn't understand why I wasn't at all hungry.

Since then, I sometimes think of the strange Farrenfeugh people, and hope that they are safe and well. And every time I pick a red poppy in the summer-time, I hope it will be the one from Farrenfeugh. Until now it never has been. But, of course, you might be lucky one day.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Measure the depth (5)
- 4 It provides accommodation for motorists (5)
- 7 Mechanism with inclined teeth (7)
- 8 It's made for rest (3)
- 9 To show signs of dilation (5)
- 10 The stables of a town house (4)
- 12 Turkish hat with a tassel (3)
- 14 One piece of foliage (4)
- 16 Division of a pound in weight (5)
- 19 To ask earnestly (3)
- 20 Sparkling reflection of light (7)
- 21 In a deteriorated state (5)
- 22 Arranged in garbled language (5)

Down

- 1 Portable protection from the sun (7)
- 2 Make a disconnection (5)
- 3 In the cause of: on ——— of (6)
- 4 Sea-captain's chief officer (4)
- 5 Presentation of figures in columns (5)
- 6 Young male person (3)
- 11 Transfixed by a sharp weapon (7)
- 13 System of astrological signs (6)
- 15 Extreme displeasure (5)
- 17 Observed and recorded (5)
- 18 Fever accompanied by trembling (4)
- 19 Bend forward from the waist (3) Solution on Tuesday



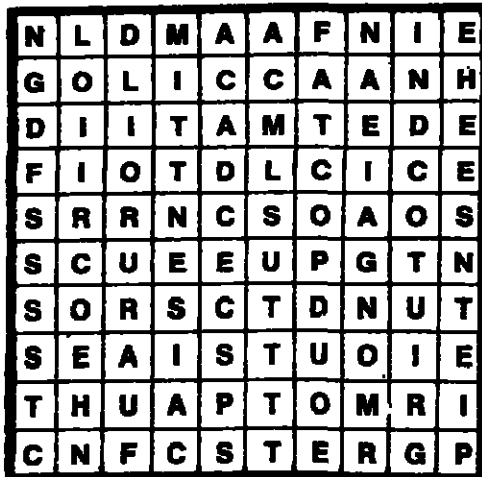
Australia: Native Koala Becky seems puzzled by this look-alike stone sculpture at the opening of the Wildlife Art Exhibition at Melbourne wildlife sanctuary last Sunday.

Word search

FILM WORK

ACTION
ACTORS
CHASE SCENE
CUES
DIALOGUE
DIRECTOR

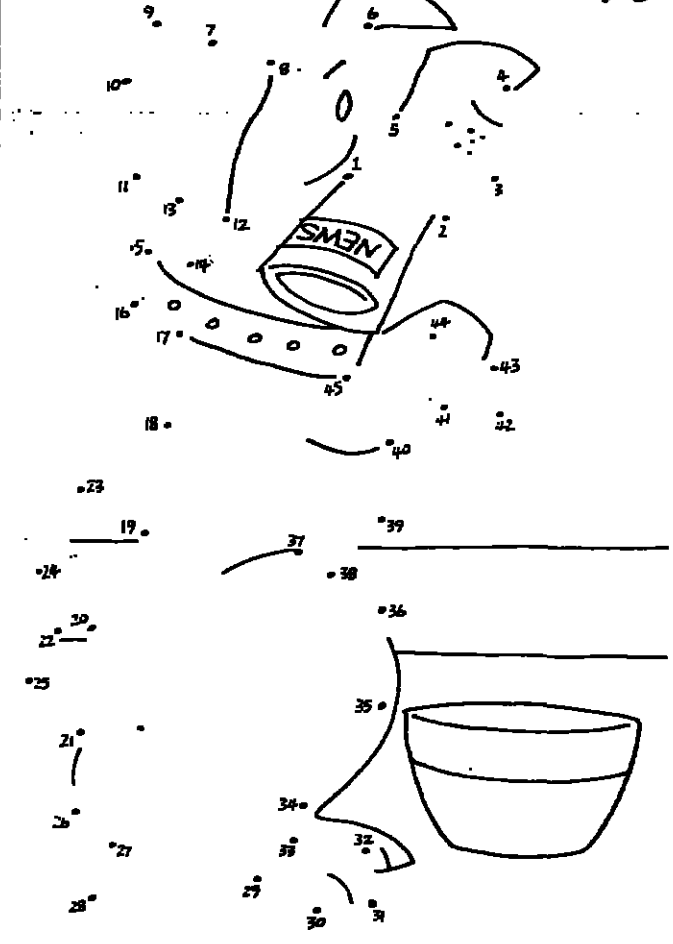
FADE
FAST PACE
FILM
PRODUCTION
SCRIPT
SOUND MAN
STUNTS
TIME



Clue: Necessary to see (8 letters)

DOT-TO-DOT

Clever Boy!



Amazing facts

The train journey from Moscow to Vladivostok in the USSR is 6,000 miles long and takes nine days.

As recently as 1923 the mortality rate among horse drivers in England and Wales was over 60 per cent higher than that among motor vehicle drivers.

The Rhaetian Railway in Switzerland is 245 miles long and craves 488 bridges and 119 tunnels.

The first crossing of the Atlantic by a steam powered ship was in 1826 by the Dutch ship Curacao.

The Black Death in the fourteenth century resulted in an estimated 75 million deaths.

Ha! Ha!

What did one wall say to the other wall?
"I'll meet you round the corner."

What do you get if you run over a canary with a lawnmower?
Shredded tweet.

What was the police dog's telephone number?
Canine, Canine, Canine.

What do you get if you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?
Hot Cross Bunnies.

What do you call a foreign body in a chip pan?
An Unidentified Frying Object.

When is it bad luck to be followed by a black cat?
When you're a mouse.

How did the exhausted sparrow land safely?
By sparrowchute.

What cake wanted to rule the world?
By sparrowchute.

What cake wanted to rule the world?
Attila the Hun.

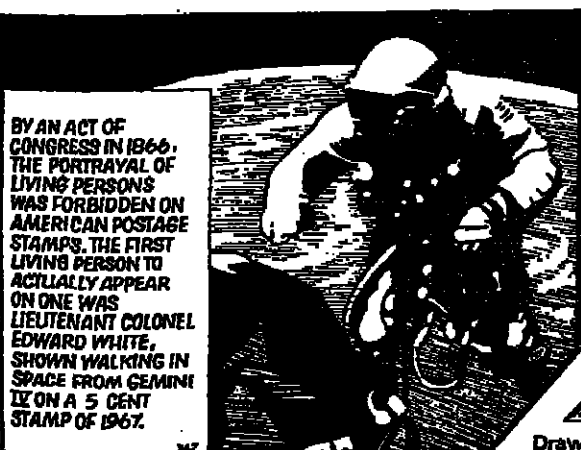
Which king of England invented the fireplace?
Alfred the Grate.

Why did Tiny Tim throw the butter out of the window?
"Cos he wanted to see a butterfly."

Why do cows have horns?
"Cos their bells don't work."

Where do gnomes do their shopping?
At the British Gnome Stores.

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS IN 1866, THE PORTRAYAL OF LIVING PERSONS WAS FORBIDDEN ON AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMPS. THE FIRST LIVING PERSON TO ACTUALLY APPEAR ON ONE WAS LEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD WHITE, SHOWN WALKING IN SPACE FROM GEMINI IV ON A 5 CENT STAMP OF 1967.

THE FIRST AFRICAN STAMPS TO APPEAR WERE THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TRIANGULARS ISSUED ON 1 SEPT 1853.



Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON

IAN THOMAS OF BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA LOOKED AND AFFIXED A RECORD 204 STAMPS IN 4 MINUTES AT THE SUNPEX '85 EXHIBITION, BRISBANE ON 5 OCT 1985.



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THE FIRST PERSON TO ACHIEVE SOME MEASURE OF GLIDING FLIGHT WAS PROBABLY THE ENGLISH MONK OLIVER OF MALMESBURY, IN ABOUT AD 1020. HE JUMPED FROM THE TOWER OF MALMESBURY ABBEY WITH WINGS AND MUST HAVE ACHIEVED SOME SORT OF FLIGHT AS HE ONLY SUFFERED TWO BROKEN LEGS.

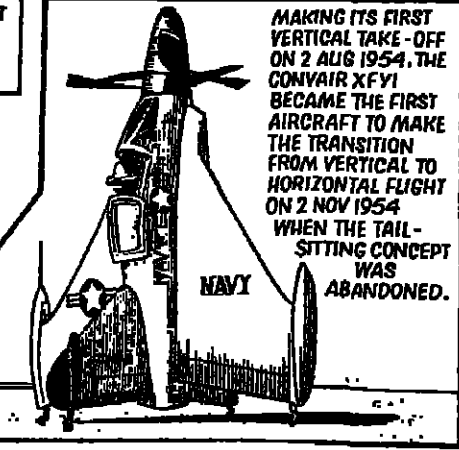


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THE WORLD'S FIRST JET-POWERED FLYING-BOAT WAS THE BRITISH SAUNDERS-ROE SRA/I JET FIGHTER WHICH FIRST FLEW ON 16 JULY 1947 WITH A TOP SPEED OF 512 mph (824 km/h).



Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON



MAKING ITS FIRST VERTICAL TAKE-OFF ON 2 AUG 1954, THE CONVAIR XFYI BECAME THE FIRST AIRCRAFT TO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM VERTICAL TO HORIZONTAL FLIGHT ON 2 NOV 1954 WHEN THE TAIL-SITTING CONCEPT WAS ABANDONED.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Available

SALMIYA near Amman Street. Accommodation in a two bedroom CAC flat with tele. facilities for a single bachelor to share with a sole occupant. Tele. 5610544, 5657478 (AT6-46353-2)

DASMA, Block 2, House 14, Street 22, 3 rooms for Indian families or working ladies to share with a family. Bus routes 15, 102, 109 and 25. Tele. Mr. Asif, 2436685 9 am - 1 pm, 4-9 pm (AT6-46385-3)

SALMIYA, main street, 2 rooms in a 3 bedroom flat, CAC with water electricity and tele. facilities for a working couple or bachelor (non-smoker). Suitable for executives. Tele. Abu Ali, 5714221, after 8 pm. (AT6-46386-1)

For Rent

BAYAN, Area 3, Road 22, Street 4, House 15, Half villa, CAC, with 5 bedrooms, 2 halls, 4 bathrooms and kitchen. Rent KD440. Tele. Mr. Bader 2531925. (AT5-46320-3)

BAYAN, Area 10, Half villa with 3 rooms, 1 saloon, 1 kitchen, 2 bathrooms including furniture and tele. Tele. 5391093 (AT6-46374-3)

Wanted

SALWA or another area. Multihaq type building (outside building) on a garden lot, required for a family. Tele. Mr. Nabil 2468200 ext. 1138, 8 am - 11 pm, 4811716 after 2 pm. (AT5-46342-3)

WANTED

CHEVROLET Caprice or Oldsmobile '98. Tele. 3728824 after 9 am. (AT6-46372-3)

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

ALL household articles including AC, TV, and VCR etc. for sale. Tele. Sheraz Qureshi, 3903318. (AT6-46384-2)

THREE-PIECE velvet sofa set, olive green, gas cooker, with 4 burners, 1 double bed, 1 crockery cupboard. Only genuinely interested persons tele. 2413706, 7-10 pm only. (AT6-46377-2)

KOHLER-Campbell piano, 1982 model, walnut finish, in excellent condition. KD775. Tele. 5719175 after 4 pm (AT5-46351-2)

RIQUI, Area 1, 2 bedroom spacious flat with tele. for sale. KD600 or best offer. Tele. 4897438, 2-5 pm, after 9 pm. (AT5-46346-3)

Cars

AUDI 80, 1986 model, automatic, red, 56,000 kms, in clean condition. Regularly maintained. Lady owner leaving Kuwait KD1,850. Tele. 3902105. (AT4-46328-3)

MAZDA 626, 1987 model with AC, fully automatic, lady driven, 15,000 kms, insured upto Sept. 1990. Owner leaving Kuwait, in immaculate condition. Best offer. Tele. 2551170, after 4 pm. (AT4-46338-3)

RANGE Rover 3500 SE, 1983 model, in good condition. Owner leaving Kuwait KD1,500, ono. Tele. Mr. Christian Georgeour, 2460299, off: 5339322 res. (AT6-46357-3)

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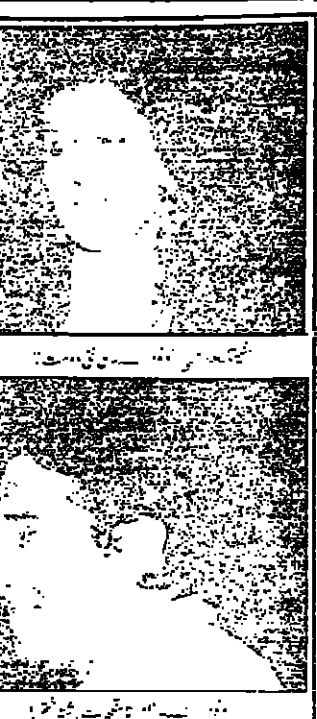
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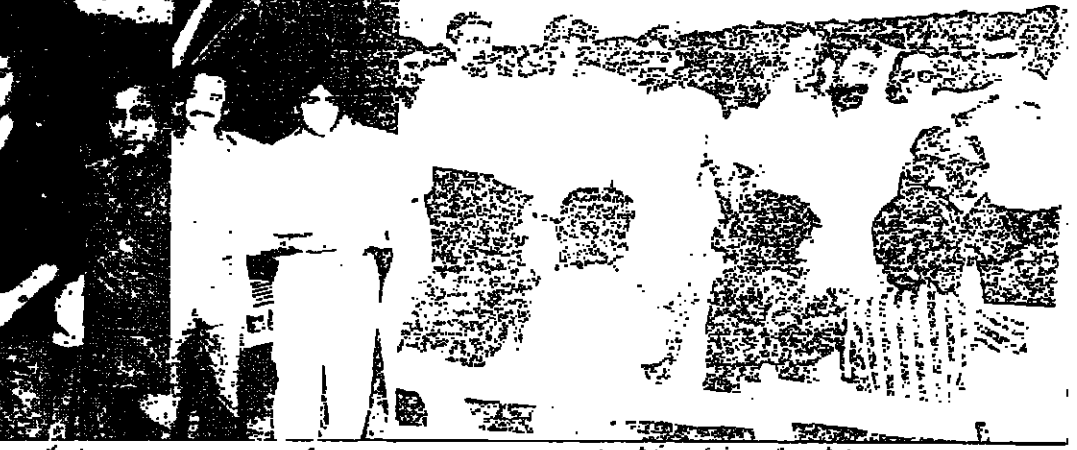


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SPORTS

BASEBALL
ROUNDUP

Abbott helps
Angels to
beat Oakland

PHOENIX, March 8, (AP): Jim Abbott, a one-handed college pitcher who was the California Angels No. 1 draft pick, knew all along that pitching against major league baseball players wouldn't be easy.

Abbott, facing a big-League lineup for the first time, struggled for two innings yesterday but wound up the winning pitcher as the California Angels beat Oakland 9-4.

"There were a few butterflies out there," Abbott admitted. "I got caught up in who was out there, rather than what I could do."

Abbott, who was born without a right hand, thrilled himself and the crowd by striking out Oakland's star hitter, Jose Canseco, with a hard slider. But Abbott walked three batters and was slow fielding a potential double-play grounder, allowing a run to score.

He gave up one run and one hit — a single by Carney Lansford — and struck out two. Abbott was supposed to work three innings, but came out early because he had thrown 57 pitches.

"Even though I struggled a bit, there were good and bad points," he said.

Abbott was the eighth pick overall in last June's draft. Never before has a player with a minor league contract attracted so much attention in the exhibition season.

In his spring debut on Friday, Abbott pitched three scoreless innings against San Diego in a "B" game against mostly minor league players, against Oakland, the only big-league hitter missing from the lineup, was Mark McGwire.

Abbott got a big cheer from the crowd of 3,631 when he relieved to start the fourth inning. Two walks and a grounder brought up Canseco with two outs and runners on second and third. Even Angels starter Mike Witt, who was running on the outfield warning track, paused to watch the confrontation.

Abbott got two quick strikes and, after a foul and ball, got Canseco to swing and miss a hard slider down-and-in. The crowd, which boomed when home-plate umpire Tim McClelland did not call Canseco out a pitch earlier, erupted in its loudest cheer of the hot afternoon.

"He throws hard. He's got good stuff," Canseco said. "It's hard to tell from one at-bat, but I think he's legitimate."

Abbott knows Canseco is the real thing, too.

"I went to the world series last year. I thought then that I would someday be facing these guys," said Abbott, 21. "I know it's just an exhibition game, but I'll be honest — it was a thrill facing Jose Canseco."

CONNORS SUFFERS UPSET IN SCOTTSDALE

Lendl celebrates birthday with victory

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, March 8, (AP): Ivan Lendl, the top-ranked men's tennis player in the world, celebrated his 29th birthday yesterday with an easy first-round victory over Paul Annacone in the \$415,000 Eagle Classic of Scottsdale. No 3 seed Jimmy Connors was ousted by unseeded Johan Kriek in a three-set marathon.

Kriek, ranked 39th in the world, beat Connors 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a 2-hour, 40-second match under the lights.

"I almost ran out of steam after 2 1/2 sets," said the 30-year-old Kriek. "I had calf cramps and cramps in my racket hand. He (Connors) is still a tough competitor. You got to have a lot of respect for a 36-year-old guy who can still play like he can. He was gnawing at my heels all night."

Wild card

Connors, eighth in world rankings and owner of a record 107 singles titles, was a wild-card entry in this event.

"I tried to stay in there and gut out the match. I don't think I concentrated as well as I could have," Connors said. "I had a mental lapse. Two actually. One at 4-all in the first set and the other in the first game of the third set. I lost my concentration a little bit and didn't take advantage of the opportunities."

Meanwhile, second-seeded Stefan Edberg, No 6 seed Brad Gilbert, eighth-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union and unseeded players Scott Davis and Mark Woodforde all advanced with first-round victories yesterday.

Edberg, the 1988 Wimbledon champion, eliminated 17-year-old Michael Chang 6-2, 6-4 in another 71-minute match.

The 23-year-old Swede, ranked fourth in the world, showed no signs of the back injury he suffered in late January at the Australian Open.

Woodforde, an Australian, won his match when Paul Chamberlain defaulted after suffering



Lendl: easy win
A strained back in the second set, Woodforde had won the first set 6-1 and was leading 1-0 in the second.

Chesnokov beat Argentina's Horacio de la Pena 6-4, 6-4; Davis defeated Derrick Rostagno 7-5, 6-2; and Gilbert downed Robert Seguso 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Gilbert won this tournament

Austin's comeback trail
begins on a sour note

INDIAN WELLS, California, March 8, (AP): Tracy Austin, one of the world's top players before nagging injuries led her to virtually give up tennis five years ago, began her comeback on a sour note yesterday, losing in the \$250,000 Virginia Slims tournament.

But Austin, 26, battled seventh seed Nicole Provis of Australia gamely through the first two sets of their first-round match at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort before losing 7-5, 5-7, 6-1.

Ranked No. 1 in the world briefly as a teenager in 1980, Austin had played only exhibitions in recent years.

Austin, the US Open champion in both 1979 and 1981, gave up competitive tennis after being bothered by recurring neck and back problems. Her last previous singles competition had been in February of 1984.

She was generally pleased with her outing yesterday, although she was obviously unhappy with the outcome.

"It was disappointing to lose," she said. "I've been waiting for this for six years."

"The last time I really played well was in 1983, but now I'm healthy and this is a big step for me. I have a lot to work on."

She played quite well, moved the ball quite well, Provis said of

Makoto bags
men's figure
skating title

SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 8, (AP): Japan's Makoto Kano won the men's figure skating title over James Cygan of the United States yesterday in the World University Winter Games.

Kano finished first in compulsory figures and in the original programme and finished second in the free programme to win the gold medal in the men's competition.

Cygan, who was fourth coming into the final night, won the free programme to move into the second and win the silver medal. Vladimir Petrenko, of the Soviet Union, was third.

Yugoslavia's Natasa Bokal won the women's slalom from a closely bunched field that saw the first six places separated by less than a second.

Bokal strung together runs of 44.64 seconds and 44.67 to edge Italy's Monica Borsoetti, 1:29.51 to 1:29.55. Heidi Dahlgren of the United States, who closed with the second fastest run of the day, finished third at 1:29.89.

Gillian Frost, also of the United States, captured seventh place with a blazing second run of 43.47 seconds, the fastest of the day from the field of 66 skiers.

Ina Kuemmel of East Germany broke up Soviet domination of the women's 5-kilometre cross-country skiing race, winning the gold medal by finishing the classic-style race in 14:36.6. Five Soviet skiers finished behind Kuemmel as the USSR placed six competitors in the top nine finishers.

Mario Constantis scored four goals to lead Czechoslovakia to a 1-0 win over South Korea in ice hockey. The Czechoslovak team moved into second place behind the Soviet Union which remained unbeaten in three games with a 10-5 win over Finland.

The Soviets are 3-0, Czechoslovakia 2-1, Finland 1-1-1, the United States is 0-1-1, South Korea is 1-0-2 and Japan is 0-2 in the ice hockey standings.

Svetlana Lipina and George Sur of the Soviet Union continued their dominance in the ice dancing, winning the gold medal over teammates Ilona Melnikchenko and Gennadi Kaskov.

Lipina and Sur won every phase of the dance. Americans Tracy Snidman and Leif Erickson won the bronze medal.

Worthy and Johnson
lead Lakers to victory

NEW YORK, March 8, (AP): James Worthy scored 24 points and Magic Johnson had 21 points, 15 assists and nine rebounds last night leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a 106-97 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Retiring star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who was honoured during halftime in his final regular season appearance in Atlanta, scored 16 points.

The Hawks got within 93-90 with 5:46 left before a 13-2 run by the Lakers cemented the win, Los Angeles' fifth in six games. It was Atlanta's third loss in four games.

Double

Byron Scott added 18 points for the Lakers and A.C. Green had 15. All five Lakers starters scored in double figures.

Dominique Wilkins led the Hawks with 27 points, followed by Moses Malone with 16 points and 16 rebounds.

Patrick Ewing scored 18 of his 40 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Knicks won their 24th consecutive home game, beating the Phoenix Suns 124-119.

Terry Cummings scored 26 points and Sidney Moncrief had 20 as the Milwaukee Bucks snapped

Canadian official knew of Johnson's drug use: coach

TORONTO, March 8, (Reuters): A top Canadian athletics official had knowledge of Ben Johnson's steroids use and offered to give advance warning if random testing was put into place, the disgraced sprinter's coach said yesterday.

Charlie Francis, during his fifth day of sworn testimony in a government inquiry into drug use in amateur sport, said he spoke to Jean-Guy Ouellette, chairman of the Canadian Track and Field Association (CTFA), in June 1988 about a proposal to introduce random drug testing.

"Ouellette told me he was concerned random testing not be introduced in Canada before the Olympic Games (in Seoul last September) because it was clear we'd be out of the picture," Francis said.

Existed

"Ouellette said he didn't understand how Canada could be more Catholic than the Pope in terms of having tougher drug testing of its own athletes than existed internationally," Francis said.

Francis, Johnson's coach since 1977, had earlier testified that the Jamaican-born sprinter began taking steroids in 1981.

"He (Ouellette) also went further than that and said, if in fact, random testing was put in, he would attempt to become involved so that he could find out and we could have some advance warning," Francis, 40, said.

In cross examination, CTFA lawyer Roger Bourque asked

Francis: "If Jean-Guy were to deny he'd ever said he agreed to warn athletes of random testing, as I believe he will, you would say he was wrong."

"Yes, I would," Francis said as Ouellette sat nearby in the hearing room taking notes.

Johnson was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal and world record of 9.79 seconds when traces of the banned anabolic steroid, stanozolol, were detected in his post-race urine sample in Seoul.

The CTFA introduced a policy of random drug testing of track and field athletes after the Olympics in September.

Bourque later asked Francis if he concealed from Canadian Olympic team officials in Seoul that Johnson had used steroids since 1981 even after he tested positive for stanozolol.

"Yes, I did nothing to disabuse them of their belief that Ben had not taken stanozolol," the coach said.

Hormone

"So you allowed them to go before the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission to argue a false cause?" Bourque asked.

"It wasn't a false cause if in fact we believed he did not take stanozolol and that was my belief at the time and it's my belief now," Francis said.

On Monday, Francis admitted Johnson had taken the steroid furazabol and a banned human growth hormone as late as Sept. 2, 1988 — three weeks before his race in Seoul.

But Francis said Johnson had not taken stanozolol since the spring of 1987 because the steroid caused his muscle to stiffen.

The coach testified that he suspected deliberate sabotage of Johnson's Olympic urine sample was the only possible explanation for the finding of stanozolol in Seoul.

He said Johnson had been tested for drug use in competition 15 times in 1987 and twice in 1988 prior to his failed test in Seoul.

Johnson was not required to provide a urine sample at the Canadian Olympic trials in Ottawa in August 1988.

In earlier testimony yesterday, Francis defended the use of steroids and said to quit them while the rest of the world continued to cheat was like disarming unilaterally and inviting the athletic equivalent of "being nuked."

"Unless we could expect all the athletes in the world would multilaterally disarm (and not use steroid), it did not make sense for Canada to unilaterally disarm and suffer the consequences."

At that point, inquiry commissioner justice Charles Dubin interrupted and said: "I'm not sure that's a proper analogy."

"Well I think it is," Francis replied. "You lose your ability to negotiate a multilateral agreement if you have already disarmed. I believe we were going to have the athletic equivalent of

IBF crown

WASHINGTON, March 7, (AP): Simon Brown will defend his International Boxing Federation welterweight crown on April 27 against Al Long in the first title bout in the United States' capital since 1959.

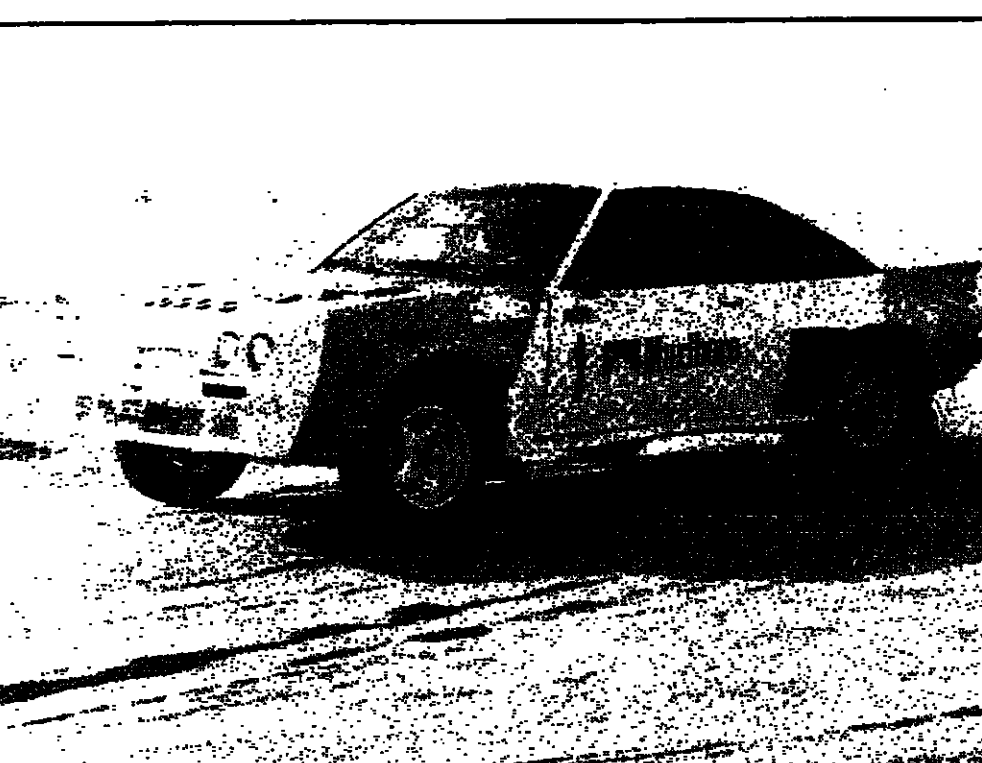
Brown, who has won 28 of his 29 professional fights, won the IBF title by defeating Tyrone Trice in France in April 1988. The District of Columbia native has since defended his title in Jamaica, Switzerland and Hungary.

Al Wazzan completes preparations

Top drivers to contest in Kuwait rally

TAREQ Al Wazzan is completing preparations to his Marlboro Opel Manta 400, ready for the Kuwait International Rally, which takes place on March 16 and 17. This event is the highlight of the Kuwait motorsports calendar and will see the region's top drivers, Mohammed Bin Sulayem, and Saeed Al Hajri battling for the Middle East Championship crown.

"It will be different this year. For the first time, the professional B-seeded drivers have to drive Group A cars, and our Group B and S cars can at least match them in power. We can no longer be certain that they will win," said Al Wazzan.



Al Wazzan in his car Opel Manta 400.

Ready

"The Opel Manta 400 is a strong car, and I'm getting to know it better now. It's currently being prepared by the Alghanim garage, and should be in a very good condition by the time of the rally. Me, and my co-driver Khaled Khalifa and my team manager Toni Samia are all ready."

The rally will run over a total distance of 584.84km, and will include 172.53km of special stages. There will be eight stages on the first leg, four of which will be driven at night, and a further nine stages the following day.

Priority

"On the first day the stages will test navigational skills," commented Al Wazzan. "I would not expect there to be much time difference between the leading cars at the end of the first leg. However, on day two the stages are very fast, and my Opel Manta should do well."

"Since I bought this car, it has given me first and second place, and I wouldn't expect it to finish lower than third," says Wazzan. The Marlboro team are confident of a good result.

However, the team also know

that they cannot score points in the Middle East Championship, and their first priority is to pick up points in the National Championship. Here they must finish ahead of Eid Falah and Ahmed Al Helal.

"I really think we can expect to see some surprises," says Wazzan. "There are a lot of good drivers in strong cars. I'm particularly looking forward to driving against Ottmar Lange, who makes his comeback in his Nissan 240RS. This car is in tip-top condition, and, as he has no points in the local championship, he can only be driving for one thing — an outright win."

The rally will start at 1.30 pm from the Yacht Club on Arabian Gulf Street, and finish at 5.30 pm on the following day.

Schneider leads first run

SHIGA KOGEN, Japan, March 8, (AP): Swiss superstar Vreni Schneider led after the first run in the women's giant slalom as the World Cup's final leg started today.

Schneider, who has already won six slaloms, five giant slaloms and one combined this season, moved one step closer to a 13th triumph that would tie her with Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark's for the most wins in single season. Stenmark won 13 events in 1979.

The women's slalom will be held on Saturday.

Schneider already has clinched this season's World Cup women's overall title — her first

— along with the Giant Slalom and Slalom Championships.

The second run will be held later today to decide the winner.

Schneider swept down the 1,239-metre (4,089-foot) Mt. Nishidate course in one minute, 11.25 seconds, nearly one second ahead of Mateja Svet of Yugoslavia, who timed in at 1:12.20.

The course has a vertical drop of 334 metres (1,102 feet) and features 50 gates.

Third place finisher was Christine Meier of West Germany in 1:12.64.

West Germany's Michaela Gerg and Swiss star Maria Walliser shared fourth spot in 1:12.68.

Calder to lead Scotland squad

EDINBURGH, Scotland, March 8, (Reuters): Finlay Calder will lead an unchanged Scotland team against France in the final Five Nations Rugby Union Championship game in Paris on March 18, providing he has recovered from a knee injury.

Calder twisted one knee in the first half of the 37-21 win over Ireland last week and will not play for his club this weekend. The knee is heavily strapped and

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بنك الكويت الوطني
البطولة المفتوحة للتنس
من ١٦ إلى ٣١ مارس
على ملاعب فندق رمادا السلام
(ماريوت سابقا)

آخر موعد لتقديم الطلبات ١١ مارس ١٩٨٩

National Bank of Kuwait
Tennis Open Tournament

From 16 to March 31st
at Ramada Al-Salam
Hotel Grounds
(Former Marriott Hotel)

Entries close
March 11, 1989

تقدم الطلبات لأي من فروع البنك الوطني
أو فندق رمادا السلام (ماريوت سابقا)

Applications must be submitted to
any of NBK's branches or to Ramada
Al-Salam Hotel (former Marriott)

Ban on Sri Lankan cricketers lifted

COLOMBO, March 8. (Reuters): A 25-year ban from domestic cricket imposed on 12 Sri Lankans who took part in a rebel tour of South Africa has been lifted, a Sri Lanka Cricket Control Board official said today.

But the test ban on the 12, and also on rebel team captain Bandula Warnapura and manager Tony Opatha, would remain, said board secretary Nuski Mohamed.

He said the lifting of the domestic ban on the captain and manager had been deferred because they were reported to have recently left for South Africa to play cricket.

Mohamed said the move followed the International Cricket Conference (ICC) decision in January to impose a test ban of up to five years on any player having sporting contact with South Africa after April 1.

Sri Lanka's board banned the rebels from Test and domestic cricket after they made a two-month tour of racially-divided South Africa in 1982, defying orders against the trip by the Sri Lankan government as well as by the board.

Mohamed said the board also decided at their meeting yesterday to improve the standard of cricket on the island by introducing a plan under which the best players would be contracted to the board on a retainer basis.

"If you have to play against professionals, we must also have professionals," he said.

Mohamed said the ethnic violence on the island in the past few years had led to a lowering of the standard of their cricket.

"Until the security situation returns to normal, the chances of foreign teams coming here are very remote," he said.

Cricket final

SKYLARK Cricket Club will meet Brothers Sporting Cricket Club in the finals of the India Tea Board Trophy cricket match on March 10 at the GCL new ground, EPI. The match will start at 9.00 am.

Sen Gupta will distribute the prizes and Pillai and Peter will be official umpires. The match is organised by Gulf Cricket League and sponsored by India Tea Board.

Indoor record

ATHENS, March 8. (Reuters): Roger Kingdom of the United States equalled the world indoor 60 metres hurdles record when he clocked 7.36 seconds at an International Athletics meeting today.

He equalled the mark set by compatriot Greg Foster in Los Angeles in January 1987.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club game held on Tuesday, N/S:

1. Dr. H. Zaid & Abdel Sattar
2. Shah & Zaid
3. Ali Inam & Zaid

E/W:

1. Dr. Saz & Lata
2. Carsten & Harris
3. Adham & Abdel Ghani

England on top with 2-0 win over Albania

TIRANA, March 8. (Reuters): England survived a few anxious moments before clinching a 2-0 World Cup win over Albania in their first international meeting today.

The victory lifted them above Sweden and Poland to the top of their qualifying group.

Goals in each half by winger John Barnes and captain and midfielder inspiration Bryan Robson put England in command after goalkeeper Peter Shilton had made three fine saves in the early stages on a pitch with an uneven bounce.

Barnes opened the scoring after 16 minutes when he completed a move started by Gary Stevens and David Rocastle on the right.

Chris Waddle chested down Rocastle's cross, Gary Lineker attempted a shot and the ball deflected off Skender Hodja to Barnes whose crisp shot beat Halim Mersini from 15 metres.

Robson, who had previously been confined to mostly defensive duties, completed the scoring when he outjumped the defence to head a free kick from Barnes powerfully past Mersini in the 63rd minute.

The win hoisted England to the top of European Group Two with three points from two matches. Sweden have the same record but an inferior goal difference.

Albania made several chances

INDIA BEATEN IN FIRST OF FIVE ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

Haynes ensures win for Windies

BRIDGETOWN, March 8. (Reuters): Desmond Haynes ensured a win for West Indies in the first of five one-day cricket internationals yesterday when he hit his 13th one-day international hundreds.

West Indies restricted the tourists to a paltry 198 for 8 on a better of a batting track giving themselves victory by 50 runs.

Haynes, whose runscoring in Australia this winter earned him the International Cricketer of the Year award, has scored more one-day hundreds than anyone else for his country, three ahead of both Viv Richards and Gordon Greenidge.

The opener's 117 came off 132 deliveries and included eight fours and five sixes, one struck off every Indian bowler apart from Sanjeev Sharma, whose eight overs cost 55 runs.

Having made a solid but unspectacular start to their innings when they reached 91 for 2 in the 27th over, the Indians effectively lost the match when three key wickets fell for 15 in the space of five overs all to Vivian Richards on his 37th birthday.

Navjot Sidhu, in his first innings of the tour, tried to hit the West Indies captain over the top of mid-wicket but succeeded in finding him with pinpoint precision.

Dilip Vengsarkar, having played well for his 23, played over the top of a full pitch and was



Haynes: hits hundred

bowed off-stump, whilst Kapil Dev was deceived by Richards' slower ball and was caught and bowled for a duck.

When Mohammad Azharuddin was superbly caught and bowled in the next over by Eldine Baptiste India had suffered a mini-collapse leaving them 107 for six with virtually no chance of winning the game.

Only a 72-run partnership in just under 12 overs between Ajay Sharma and Kiran More, ended by a brilliant catch by Richards at backward point, gave the Indian total respectability. Ajay's 43 came off only 48 balls and included two fours and two sixes.

The West Indian innings got off to a flying start with the 50 being posted in the 11th over for the loss of Greenidge who lost his

middle stump when he played on to Kapil.

Haynes was particularly severe on the inexperienced Sanjeev, who in his fifth one-day international conceded 31 in his first four overs.

Polished
West Indies eventually made sure of the game by scoring 132 in the last 20 overs of which Haynes scored 67 and Vivian Richards a polished 40 from only 38 balls but including a mere 3 fours.

Gus Logie also weighed in at the finish with a useful 19 from 14 balls as he added 53 in 6.5 overs with Haynes. Haynes was named Man-of-the-Match by Joel Garner.

Scoreboard
WEST INDIES 248 for four in 48 overs (D. Haynes 117 not out).

INDIA:
R. Shastri b Walsh 23
K. Srikkanth c Richardson b Bishop 18
N. Sidhu c Baptiste b Richards 22
D. Vengsarkar b Richards 22
M. Azharuddin c and b Baptiste 16
Kapil Dev c and b Richards 0
A. Sharma not out 43
K. More c Richards b Baptiste 31
S. Sharma b Bishop 6
A. Ayub not out 18
Extras (b 7 w 3 nb 8) 18
Total (for eight wickets, 48 overs) 198
Fall of wickets: 1-40 2-60 3-91 4-100 5-106 6-107 7-119 8-186
Did not bat: C. Sharma
Bowling: Ambrose 10-0-42-0, Bishop 9-0-30-2, Walsh 10-1-30-1, Baptiste 9-0-42-2, Richards 10-0-47-3
West Indies won by 50 runs.

New Zealand beat Pakistan in one-day match

WELLINGTON, March 8. (Reuters): In a display of superb cricket, New Zealand had little difficulty matching Pakistan's 253 for six to take an unbeatable two-nil lead today in the second of four one-day matches.

Led by exciting innings from Martin Crowe, Andrew Jones and Ian Smith and cheered on by a near-capacity crowd, New Zealand reached 254 for the loss of four wickets to win by six wickets.

Pakistan fielded poorly, allowing almost 30 extra runs through sloppy work in the field.

Worst
"I put it (the loss) down to our fielding," captain Imran Khan said after the match. "It was one of the worst displays we have had in a one-day game."

He was again critical of the umpires but did not blame them for the loss.

"What's the point of talking? We have the same objections but the umpiring did not lose us the match," he said.

New Zealand started poorly with captain John Wright out for nought and Robert Vance for eight but Andrew Jones quickly set New Zealand on the path to victory with a delightful 67, his 13th half-century in 26 one-day games.

Martin Crowe batted with commonsense for his 87 not out, hitting just five boundaries. The runs were scored off 95 balls of controlled power.

The innings faltered briefly when Mark Greatbatch was out for nine, skying a catch to Salim Malik off off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed. But Ian Smith, his replacement at the crease, wasted no time in smashing a thrilling half-century.

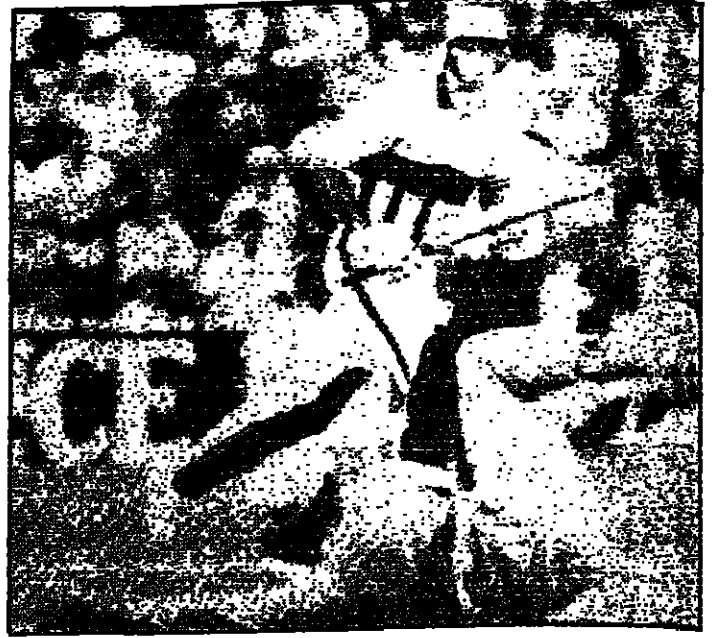
Superb
He scored off virtually every ball, hitting his highest one-day score of 62 not out in 71 minutes off 51 balls.

Pakistan's bowlers fared no better than New Zealand's on the flat pitch and the batsmen were particularly severe on leg-spinner Abdul Qadir. His 3.5 overs cost 30 runs.

Pakistan had earlier looked set for victory when they scored 253, led by a superb 126 by Man-of-the-Match Shoaib Mohammad.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Mudassar Nazar c Smith 3
b Watson 126
Shoaib Mohammad not out 126
Aamer Malik run out 3
Rameez Raja c Vance 72
b Robertson 72
Salim Malik c Vance b Robertson 17
Imran Khan b Morrison 17
Ejaz Ahmed c Robertson 13
b Morrison 2
Abdul Qadir not out 8
Extras (2 nb 4 lb 7 w) 13
Total (for six wickets, 5 overs) 253
Fall of wickets: 1-15 2-24 3-176 4-192 5-225 6-242
Did not bat: Salim Tauseef, Salim Jaffer, Asghar Javed.



New Zealand batsman Andrew Jones watches as a Pakistani fielder drops a possible catch during yesterday's one-day match. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bowling: Morrison 10-0-62-2 (nb 2), Watson 10-0-48-1, Snedden 10-0-31-0, Robertson 10-0-56-2, Kugeleja 10-0-52-0.
NEW ZEALAND
R. Vance b Mudassar Nazar 8
J. Wright c Aamer Malik 9
b Salim Jaffer 6
A. Jones run out 67
M. Crowe not out 87
M. Greatbatch c Salim Malik 9
b Tauseef Ahmed 62
I. Smith not out 62
Extras (9 lb 10 lb 2 w) 21
Total (for four wickets, 46.5 overs) 254
Fall of wickets: 1-3 2-56 3-133 4-146
Did not bat: C. Kugeleja, G. Robertson, M. Snedden, D. Morrison, W. Watson.
Bowling: Imran Khan 9-1-33-0, Salim Jaffer 9-1-48-1, Asghar Javed 8-0-44-0, Mudassar Nazar 9-1-45-1, Abdul Qadir 3.5-0-30-0, Tauseef Ahmed 8-0-35-1.
Man-of-the-Match: Shoaib Mohammad.
Result: New Zealand won by six wickets.

Salmiya crush Ernst and Whinney

SALMIYA Cricket Club (SCC) crushed Ernst and Whinney C.C. by four wickets at KUNA ground on Sunday.

After winning the toss SCC captain Hasib Khan opted to bat first.

SCC opened their innings with Saleem and Akhtar. Salmiya seemed to be in trouble right from the start when Akhtar was run out for 10 runs. Masood joined Saleem and the partnership was worth 20 runs when Masood was run out, and Saleem was the next batsman to join him in the pavilion.

Sohail and Phillip displayed some excellent shots. Sohail made 47 runs before he was "stumped out". Sadaqat was joined

by Phillip and both the batsmen took the score to 140. Sadaqat was out for 27 runs.

Phillip completed 101 runs with the help of 15 boundaries and remained unbeaten.

SCC scored 210 runs in 30 allotted overs.

In reply Ernst and Whinney C.C. opened their innings with Rajesh and Nareesh. Rajesh was out for 14 runs but Nareesh and Ramil played some good strokes scoring 31 and 35 runs respectively. Ernst and Whinney were all out for 147 runs.

For SCC successful bowlers were Hasib Khan 23 for 3, Akhtar 17 for 2, Saleem 48 for 3 and Phillip's took one wicket.

Bangladesh beat Thailand

DHAKA, March 8. (AP): Bangladesh broke its losing spell today by beating Thailand 3-1 in the World Cup soccer qualification Asian Group Five match. Bangladesh led 2-0 at halftime.

The victory was the first by Bangladesh in the five matches it has played so far.

The victory triggered celebrations in the country of 110 million people where soccer is the most popular sport.

The home team's first score came 10 minutes into the first half when Wasim Iqbal dribbled past three Thai defenders to put the ball into the net.

Wasim Sabbir scored the second goal for the home team in the 28th minute when he got the ball after a Thai forward faulted and let the ball reach Sabbir who found the net wide open.

The third goal for Bangladesh was scored by Sattajit Das in the 30th minute of the second half by

swooping the ball from a Thai defender.

Thailand's lone goal came in the 37th minute of the match watched by 25,000 spectators. The scorer was Prasert Changmool.

Lineups:

Bangladesh: Mohammed Moinir, Monem Munna, Kaiser Hamid, Rezul Karim Rehan, (Ziaul Haq Babu) Dastagir Hossain Nira, Sattajit Das, Wasim Iqbal, Faqar Islam Kamal, Ahmad Ali (Babul Das), Sheik Mohammed Aslam, Wasim Sabbir.

Thailand: Vilast Nomchareon, Sutit Chaikitti, Surak Chaikitti, Paitot Pongjan, Sujja Sikkate, Chalermmyut Sangnopol, Vitom Kijmongkol Sak, Boonpos Praprut (Piyapong Pew-On), Veerapong Penglee, Prateep Pan-Kao, Prasert Changmool.

Standings

Tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points:
England 2 1 1 0 2 0 3
Sweden 2 1 1 0 2 1 3
Poland 1 1 0 0 1 0 2
Albania 3 0 0 3 1 5 0
Remaining matches: April 26 England v Albania, May 7 Sweden v Poland, June 3 England v Poland, Sept 6 Sweden v England, Oct 8 Sweden v Albania, Oct 11 Poland v England, Oct 25 Poland v Sweden, Nov 15 Albania v Poland.

Soccer board

AMSTERDAM, March 8. (Reuters): The entire board of the Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) has resigned following concern among clubs over a deficit after last year's triumph in the European Championship. KNVB spokesman Rob de Leeuw said today.

He said KNVB chairman Andre Van Der Louw and four other board members gave their posts at an association meeting yesterday after a vote of no confidence in their policy.

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